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Desert

Magazine of the

OUTDOOR SOUTHWEST



November, 1961 40 cents

A Gold Medal for Desert

We take pride in announcing to our readers that this publication has won the Gold Medal for Excellence, general magazine class, in competition held at the 1961 California State Fair.

Desert Magazine's winning entry was the July '60 special issue on "Summer Heat," which presented in words and pictures a penetrating analysis of the Desert Southwest's warm weather days. It was the first special issue undertaken by *Desert* since issue Number 1, Volume 1, came off the presses in November, 1937.

The State Fair's Silver Medal (second place award) went to *Westways Magazine*, Los Angeles, for its "Let's Explore A By-way" series. *Sunset Magazine*, Palo Alto, was Bronze Medal winner with "The Wonderful Outdoor World of San Diego."

Desert's award-winning issue consisted of nine illustrated feature articles exploring the heat theme. "Quite naturally," read the preface to this issue, "most of our stories center in Death Valley, the hottest place in the Northern Hemisphere and perhaps the world. These articles are factual. Hot weather is neither overly-dramatized ('... the cruel, searing deserts...') nor given a chamber of commerce gloss ('... while high, daytime temperatures are comfortable...')."

Those feature articles, and their authors were: "Indians of the Land Afire" by Ruth Kirk—story of the Panamint people who have lived in Death Valley since time immemorial. . . . "With Patton on Desert Maneuvers" by Weldon F. Heald—troops learn about the enemy called heat. . . . "A Summer Visit to the Panamints" by Harold O. Weight

— cool country on the inferno's lip. . . . "Protecting Visitors to the Valley" by Roland Wauer — how the Park Service keeps tab on 70,000-plus summer visitors to Death Valley. . . . "Desert Ordeal: Lost on the Mojave" by Mary Jones Blackwell — a remarkable first-person account of a near disaster. . . . "Summer Routine for a Family of Six" by Jean Valens Bullard — a Death Valley naturalist's wife discloses the housewife's June to September routine. . . . "A Naturalist Looks at Summer Heat"

by Edmund Jaeger—how plants and animals adapt to high temperatures. . . . "Natural Air Conditioners of Iran" by William E. Warne—the former Point Four administrator for Iran discusses an Old World secret for beating the heat. . . . "On Leaving the Valley Called Death" by Fred Binnewies — an ex-Superintendent of Death Valley National Monument tells about the strange land he came to love.

In addition to these feature articles, the award-winning issue contained a Norton Allen map outlining record high temperatures for weather stations throughout the Southwest; a sampling of comments by visitors to Death Valley (ranging from "Enchanting" in January, to "Never Again" in July); a page of "heat humor" by Harry Oliver; and a Randall Henderson editorial on problems facing Death Valley.

The 1961 Gold Medal was *Desert's* second award in as many State Fair attempts.

A limited number of "Summer Heat" issues are available from: Back Issue Department, *Desert Magazine*, Palm Desert, Calif. Price is \$1.



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COVER PHOTO: "Vaquero on a Red Mule." The Mexican cowboy is Gregorio Avilez of the Barranco Rancho, Cabo de San Lucas, Baja California. In the background is an elephant tree, subject of the story beginning on page 14. Cover photographer is Ralph D. Cornell of Los Angeles.

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A NOVEMBER Travel Suggestion By LUCILE WEIGHT



AT THE ARTISTS' BREAKFAST

ENCAMPMENT TIME . . .

This year, retrace the old Eichbaum Toll Road, pioneer tourist route into Death Valley

DURING THE Death Valley '49ers Celebration this November 9-12, visitors will converge on the scene from all directions. But, these paved access roads didn't "come easy."

One of them, which will lead thousands from Hwy 6-395 in Owens Valley to the site of the most popular single event of the Celebration—the Burro Flapjack Sweepstakes—is a monument to a man who loved Death Valley, envisioned its tourist future, and built a road to it. All this in days before the county dared spend taxpayers' money for a road into the forbidding trough. This is now State Sign Rt. 190, whose forerunner was the Eichbaum Toll Road from Darwin to Stove Pipe Wells.

This east terminus of the historic road, besides being the setting for the sweepstakes on Nov. 11, is the goal of the three-day burro race from Beatty and Rhyolite, a new feature this year.

Below Mosaic Canyon, overlooking the dunes and Devil's Cornfield, and facing Daylight Pass, is the place picked by H. W. (Bob) Eichbaum and his wife Helene, for their Death Valley home. If they could make a living there. Though Bob had been a Southern California businessman a good many years, he was something of a Death Valley pioneer, for 20 years before he had installed the first electric power plant in booming Rhyolite.

By the 1920s publicity stories were giving Death Valley the tourist angle. There were Essex car tours in 1916 and 1920, a Chevrolet tour in 1922 . . . But there were still stories of deadly vapors and poison waterholes, of the bones of emigrants.

So to bring more people in, Bob built his own road over Towne Pass. The existing road from the west led up Wild Rose Canyon and down Emigrant, but that was the long way around for those coming from Nevada or Southern California via Owens Valley. With a franchise for a toll road, on Nov. 4, 1925, Eichbaum started surveying directly across Panamint Valley and over Towne Pass. With men, mules and dynamite he blasted his shortcut and im-

proved the road from Darwin, and charged a toll of \$2 a car and 50 cents a person.

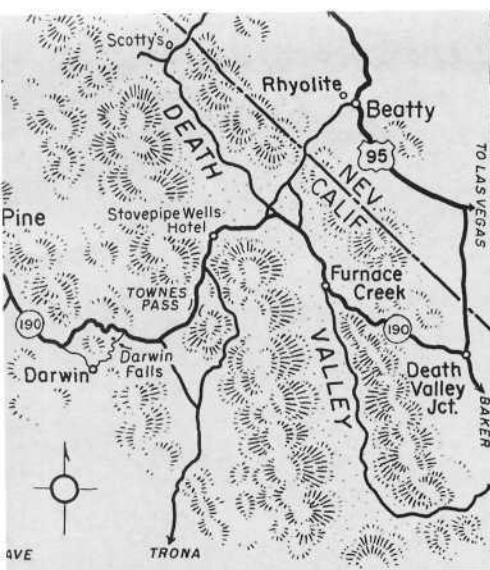
The east terminus was "Bungalow City," with comfortable rooms and good meals. At the formal opening on Thanksgiving, 1926, oldtimers from far and near were invited to the feast and to see the city comforts brought to Death Valley. The Easter service held here the following spring brought crowds from Southern California.

"Bungalow City" soon took the name of Stove Pipe Wells, for the holes near the dunes a few miles northeast where early miners dug for water and where for a time during Skidoo days there were primitive accommodations for those trekking between Rhyolite and the Panamints.

Motorists taking Hwy. 190, leaving 6-395 two miles south of Lone Pine, may wonder why the toll road was built from Darwin, now on a "side road". Roads were built where they were needed, and early roads in the Argus, Coso and Inyo mountains, were for hauling silver and lead. So the main road they looped south to Darwin, and angled down Panamint Valley to Ballarat above which Panamint City poured out silver in the 1870s, and branched up Wild Rose which served as a freighting outlet for Harrisburg, Skidoo and other mines early this century.

Eichbaum's road, although unique in that it was built primarily for tourists, was not a new route. Once it had been an Indian trail. Then came that band of 1849, part of which (including Capt. Towne) made its way out of the Valley by this pass. Some of the party came back the same way in 1850 looking for the silver which they had seen but had been in too desperate a condition to locate or mark.

The toll road was but a few years old when plans were shaping to make Death Valley a National Monument, which was accomplished in 1933. Travel increase brought about purchase of the road by the county, and soon it was merged into the state system. Dedication of the realigned state route, popularly called the "Mt. Whit-



ney-Death Valley Road," took place in October, 1937.

Motorists found it indeed a new road. The old half circle through Darwin and the notorious Zinc Hill grade were deleted by a cut through the mountains to the north.

This improvement leaves two attractions, Darwin Falls and Darwin, as side trips. The falls, once half a mile high, must now be reached by turning south at Panamint Springs and driving via the old route about 2½ miles up Darwin Wash, to the parking spot. To visit Darwin, you can continue along this dirt road, which leaves the wash to loop and cling to Zinc Hill until you plunge down into Darwin Wash again. It seems longer than the 12.8 miles from Panamint Springs. To oldtimers this was a boulevard, but may give a thrill—if not a chill—to drivers of low, wide cars. The gouged-out passing spots seem few and far between. If you are not a confident mountain driver, continue about 17 miles west of Panamint Springs, and turn south on the old main road to Darwin, about 5 miles away.

Darwin Falls, in arid mountains of volcanics, limestones, and quartz monzonite, is a desert miracle. There are falls and cascades of sparkling water, with hanging ferns and cress and water-loving flowers in season.

The falls, canyon and town were named for Dr. Darwin French who camped here a hundred years ago on his way to the Panamints. So far as known he did not recognize the galena of the area—visitors have picked up the "spuds" in this wash—his sights were to the east where he hoped to find the Gunsight silver.

It was 1874 before Darwin was discovered. It has yielded over \$25 million in ore, rising and falling with the price of silver. This does not count the last operation of Anaconda Copper Mining Co. here, after 1953. In World War II, zinc also was important, and some scheelite was found.

So Bob Eichbaum's road is changed, but he knew what he was doing when he marked out his route 35 years ago. The latest alignment takes travelers by the thousands in an even straighter line—to the same destination.

Helene is no longer at Stove Pipe. She sold the place some time after Bob died. But another charming hostess presides there today, Margaret Putnam, a past president of Death Valley '49ers Inc., who with her late husband George Palmer Putnam took over Stove Pipe in the 1940s.

... And it takes far more than Stove Pipe Wells to feed and bed today's thousands. Though crowds will congregate here

Nov. 11 to see the unique burro event, some of them will be staying up at Wild Rose, or over at Scotty's Castle, or down the valley at borax company's Furnace Creek Inn and Ranch. The ranch, headquarters for borax operations in early days, is far older than Stove Pipe.

Overflow of Valley visitors stay at Beatty or Shoshone. And many campsites have been added by the National Park Service.

Here are the Encampment highlights:

True or False

Here are 20 questions on the past, present and future of the Desert Southwest. It takes 12 correct answers for a passing grade; 15 to 17 right answers is "good;" 18 to 20, "excellent." Answers are on page 42.

1. Site of old Fort Callville lies buried under the waters of Lake Mead. True.... False....
2. Tidal bores at the mouth of the Colorado River sometimes reach a height of 12 feet. True.... False....
3. Most of the agave species native to the Southwest die after one flowering season. True.... False....
4. Wild burros were roving the American desert when the Spaniards first came into this region. True.... False....
5. California was Mexican territory when the Jayhawkers made their famous trek across Death Valley. True.... False....
6. Desert mirages are seen only in the summertime. True.... False....
7. The smoke tree blossoming season comes earlier in the year than that of the paloverde tree. True.... False....
8. Prehistoric Indians who occupied the Salt River Valley of Arizona are known as the Hohokam. True.... False....

Thursday, Nov. 9: 11 a.m.—Dedication of the Freeman Junction Historical Marker on the Walker Pass Road (U.S. 6 and State Rt. 178).

Friday, Nov. 10: 8 a.m. — Authors' Breakfast.

Saturday, Nov. 11: 8 a.m. — Photographers' Breakfast. 2 p.m.—Burro Flapjack Sweepstakes at Stove Pipe Wells.

Sunday, Nov. 12: 8:30 a.m. — Artists' Breakfast. ///

9. Traveling east on Highway 80, Pacific Standard Time changes to Mountain Standard Time at Yuma. True.... False....
10. The Goldfield, Nev., gold boom was the springboard for the rush that resulted in the founding of neighboring Tonopah. True.... False....
11. "The Goosenecks" are on the San Juan River. True.... False....
12. Indio, Calif., is the center of the U.S. date harvest. True.... False....
13. Indian petroglyphs are found only on rocks facing the east (or sunrise). True.... False....
14. Desert tortoises hibernate in holes usually dug by other desert denizens. True.... False....
15. Nevada's Charleston Peak is visible from Reno. True.... False....
16. A "piton" is a mountain climber's implement. True.... False....
17. The old Mexican trail known as Camino del Diablo passed through Needles, Calif. True.... False....
18. Much of the land in and around the resort city of Palm Springs, Calif., is owned by members of the Cahuilla tribe. True.... False....
19. Western artist Bill Bender was a pupil of Jimmy Swinnerton. True.... False....
20. Silver was the principal mineral that came from the Mojave Desert's Calico Mountains during the boom period. True.... False....

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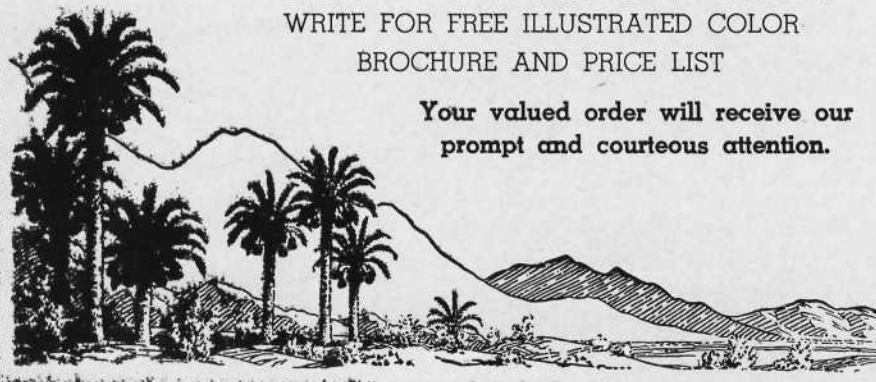
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NEW IDEAS for DESERT LIVING

By DAN LEE

Items used in this column are not paid advertising, but products which the editors feel are of special interest to desert-oriented readers. Some of them are brand new; others are brought to you attention in the new light of desert applications. All of them have been tested firsthand. Further information on any product can be obtained by writing direct to the manufacturer.



SOAP IN A TUBE

HAND-SOAP IN A TUBE: A handsoap in a squeeze - tube is now made by Paket, and after testing I had to agree that it has many advantages. For one thing, you can set it down anywhere without worrying about collecting a coating of sand or twigs, as with a bar of soap. Liquid soap seems to lather much more readily, and the squeeze-tube is very handy on any expedition. Carry it in your pocket—the tubes are extremely light-weight. Price is three tubes for \$1, available from Paket Sales Corporation, 9022-D So. Baltimore Ave., Chicago 17, Ill.

A COMPACT, PORTABLE WATER PUMP: Called the "Little Handy Pump" by its maker, this amazing unit is a completely self-contained water pump. Power is derived from a tiny 3/4-horsepower gasoline engine. The



PORTABLE PUMP

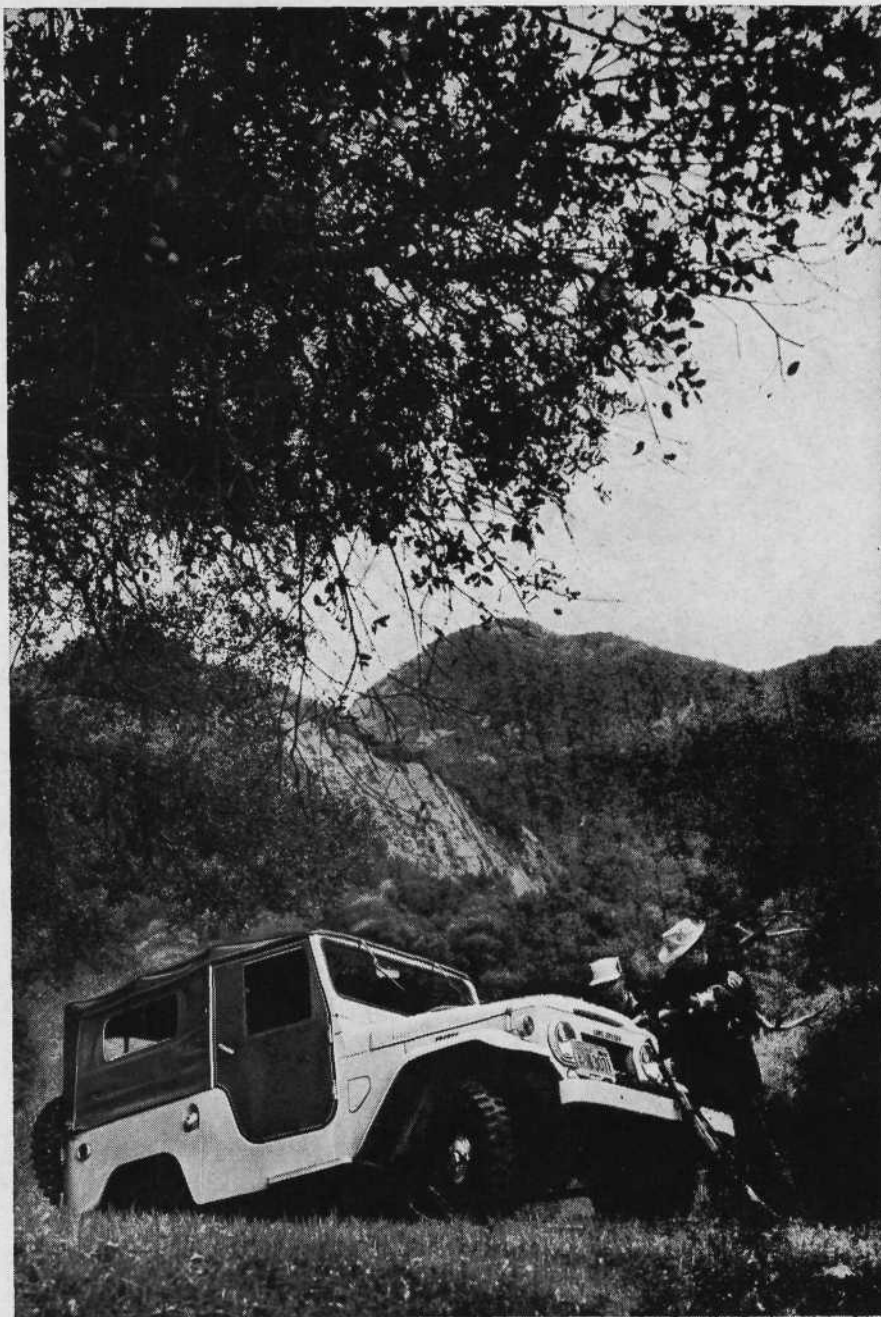
pump housing with self-priming impeller is attached directly onto the crankshaft to take advantage of the engine's 6300 rpm. What fascinates me about the Little Handy is its extreme light weight: a low five pounds! It has a well-designed carrying handle and the fuel tank on the two-cycle engine is integral. The whole unit is about the size of a coffee-pot.

I foresee many useful applications for this type of portable pump around the campsite or desert cabin—wherever there is a source of water, or where transported water is available. Here's how the Little Handy works. First, attach two short pieces of ordinary garden hose to the intake and outlet fittings on the pump housing. On one hose, place a shut-off nozzle for controlling the spray. On the other hose, attach a filtering screen of some kind. An ordinary shower-nozzle is sufficient. The screen prevents bits of debris from clogging the impeller while pumping water.

Now the user can set the pump down near his water supply and it's ready to go. Place the intake hose into your water can (or water storage tank, bucket, etc.) and merely pull the starter cord on the tiny engine. Let it warm up for half a minute, then press the nozzle and water charges forth at the rate of 155 gallons an hour.

I made several tests of the pump with a five-gallon water can and found that it emptied the container in just over two-minutes. Imagine how easy it would be to bolt together a simple bracket that would secure the pump onto the can side. Then the user could transport both pump and water supply *with one hand*. The Little Handy weighs less than does one gallon of water! For watering plants, for spraying weed killers or fertilizers, for hosing down the car or trailer, it seems like an ideal compromise between low-weight and reasonable performance.

Horizontally, the Little Handy will



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throw a jet of water about 40 to 60 feet, depending on winds. With fire protection a very remote prospect for most desert cabins, a portable pump of this kind, free from outside power connections, might be a good emergency item. Most fires can be stopped with a quick, fine water spray.

Price of the Little Handy is \$69.50, without carrying handle; \$74.50 with handle. It is available through: Hulse Industries, Inc., P.O. Box 1163-D, Palos Verdes Estates, Calif.



DESERT RAT

A NEW TRAIL VEHICLE: The farther you get from the road, the better the pickings. And this is precisely what Cole Williams had in mind when he built his off-highway machine. He calls it the Desert Rat—and it will go almost anywhere.

I made a rather fierce, punishing test of this strange new vehicle, and then went home convinced that his many claims are conservative.

The whole idea is built around Goodyear's new terra tires, which operate under extremely low pressure—two-pounds per square inch! These

amazing tires actually "fold" around rocks—thus riding over them with ease. Traction is simply fantastic in deep sand. So long as there is power to propel the thing, the tires will actually "float" over sand, cactus, broken glass, sharp roots and just about anything else you're likely to encounter in the desert.

This machine was designed specifically for rough country. It weighs only 330 pounds. It has two fibre-glass bucket seats, a centrally mounted steering wheel, and a seven-horsepower engine. Wheelbase is a compact 64". Length overall is 84". Width is 51½", and total height is a low 38". Road clearance is advertised as 12". Steering control is by means of a rack and pinion arrangement.

After testing, my only complaints were that the seat backs were too low and angled the wrong direction. There was insufficient back support. However, Williams assured me that production models will have higher and better placed seat backs. The chain-drive transmission works well, but on the steepest grades did not deliver full power to the wheels. I would say that a Tote-Gote will climb higher on steeper grades than Desert Rat. By the same token, I know from experience that Desert Rat will traverse sandy areas that will stop a power-scooter in its tracks! Those big tires are a tremendous aid.

Mechanically, the Desert Rat is adequate. It has a minimum of troublesome parts, yet everything functions, there is no excess weight. It does what you would expect of it. My opinion is that those who want to travel in pairs into treacherous terrain may find the Desert Rat an ideal compromise between wilderness

penetration and comfort. The price is \$995. More information is available from the Remote Area Transportation Corp., P.O. Box 1760-D, Santa Ana, Calif.



39-POUND GENERATOR

PORTABLE ELECTRICITY:

Electric lights for the remote campsite or desert cabin are no longer beyond reach when commercial electricity is not available. The newest portable generators are compact, dependable, and lightweight—and can make camp really enjoyable. One of the best I've ever tested is the Model 500-S, Ralph Light Plant. This amazing little package weighs only 39 pounds *complete*—engine and generator—and puts out a solid 500-watts of 60-cycle AC electric power. The tiny 1½ horsepower engine consumes only a pint of fuel per hour!

I can't say that the Ralph unit is strictly "new," but because it fills the requirements of many desert travelers, it seems worthy of mention. The manufacturer guarantees his generators against short-out, or burn-out.

Overall dimensions of the Ralph 500-S light plant are 10" high, 23" long, 14" wide. A rewind starter cord makes engine operation simple. Just pull the starter rope, plug in your power cord to the receptacle on the generator, and you're in business.

The model 500-S is powerful enough to operate your TV, radio, shaver, small portable drills, a sewing machine, or any small appliance with a wattage requirement of less than about 500. While the manufacturer has large models available, the 500-S, from the average desert traveler's viewpoint, seems like the ideal power-plant. Price of the model 500-S is \$159. It is available from M. J. Ralph, 936-D Broadway, Chula Vista, Calif. ///

Statement Required by the Act of August 24, 1912, as amended by the Acts of March 3, 1933, July 2, 1946 and June 11, 1960 (74 Stat. 208) showing the ownership, management, and circulation of Desert Magazine published monthly at Palm Desert, California, for October 1, 1961.

1. The names and addresses of the publisher, editor, managing editor, and business managers are:

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Editor Eugene L. Conrotto, P.O. Box 481, La Quinta, California.

2. The owner is: (If owned by a corporation, its name and address must be stated and also immediately thereunder the names and addresses of stockholders owning or holding 1 percent or more of total amount of stock. If not owned by a corporation, the names and addresses of the individual owners must be given. If owned by a partnership or other unincorporated firm, its name and address, as well as that of each individual member, must be given.) Desert Magazine, Inc., Palm Desert, Calif.

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None.

4. Paragraphs 2 and 3 include, in cases where the stockholder or security holder appears upon the books of the company as trustee or any other fiduciary relation, the name of the person or corporation for whom such trustee is acting; also the statements in the two paragraphs show the affiant's full knowledge and belief as to the circumstances and conditions under which stockholders and security holders who do not appear upon the books of the company as trustees, hold stock and securities in a capacity other than that of a bona fide owner.

5. The average number of copies of each issue of this publication sold or distributed, through the mails or otherwise, to paid subscribers during the 12 months preceding the date shown above was: (This information is required by the act of June 11, 1960 to be included in all statements regardless of frequency of issue.) 32450.

Charles E. Shelton, publisher
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Jeannette A. Constantino
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and Happiness through all the
Coming Year



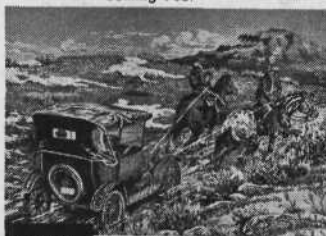
L1502 **A Christmas Prayer**
Greeting is a sincere and ap-
propriate verse



L1503 **Winter Friends**
Season's Greetings and Best
Wishes for the New Year



D1504 **Merry Christmas**
With Best Wishes for a Happy
Holiday Season



L1505 **Santa's Helpers**
Greeting is a friendly and ap-
propriate verse



T1506 **Sign of the Season**
Glad Tidings along the trail and
Good Prospects for the New Year



W1507 **Western Wonderland**
Merry Christmas and a Happy
New Year



L1508 **A Western Santa**
Merry Christmas and a Happy
New Year



L1509 **Navajo Weaver**
With Best Wishes for a Happy
Holiday Season



L1510 **"And Behold, The Star—"**
With Best Wishes for the Season
and Happiness throughout the
Coming Year



L1511 **Competition**
Best Wishes for a Merry Christ-
mas and a Happy New Year



D1512 **Main Street Music**
A very Merry Christmas and
Best Wishes in the Coming Year



L1513 **Prairie Post Office**
With Best Wishes for a Merry
Christmas to Your Outfit from
Ours



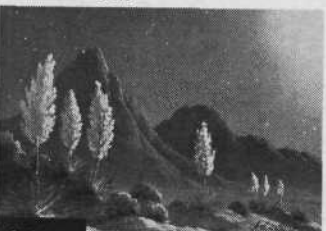
D1514 **A Ranch House Santa**
A friendly greeting at Christmas
and Best Wishes for the New Year



L1515 **A Christmas Visit**
Merry Christmas and a Happy
New Year



L1516 **Thinkin' of you at Christmas**
Best Wishes for the Holidays
and Happiness throughout the
New Year



H1517 **Candles of The Lord**
May the Spirit of Christmas Abide
With You Throughout the Com-
ing Year



L1518 **A Loop Full of Cheer**
With Health, Wealth, and Happi-
ness through all the Coming Year

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MONEY BACK GUARANTEE • WE PAY POSTAGE

'DISCOVERING'

ELEPHANT TREES

By **GEORGE W. LEETCH**
Ranger, Anza-Borrego State Park

A color photograph of an Elephant Tree appears in the background of this month's cover illustration.



BURSERIA MICROPHYLLA—THE ELEPHANT TREE

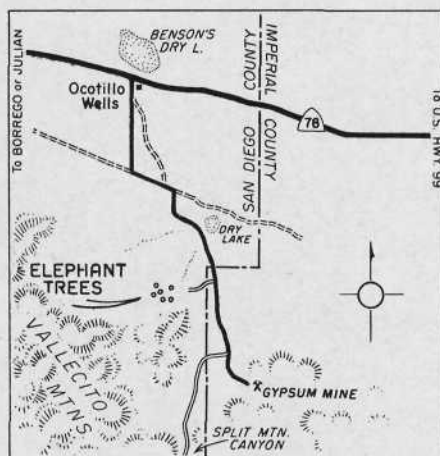
AS A RANGER in the Anza-Borrego Desert State Park, one of the questions most frequently asked of me is: "Are the elephant trees worth going to see?"

The answer is yes and no.

For some people, "discovering" the elephant trees is a unique and worthwhile experience.

Others are disappointed. The word "elephant" can stir the imagination, and when the trees turn out to be mere trees and not a nature circus, these people feel let down.

"Elephant" is descriptive of the tree's trunk and lower limbs which are thickened out of proportion to the height of the plant. In the better developed elephant trees, these swollen branches and trunks bear a similarity to the massive legs and twisted trunk of an elephant. However, the resemblance ends here. The leaves are small, and at intermittent times of the year the trees are bare of foliage. The elephant tree is in no way associated with the tropical "elephant ear" plant. It may be on this point that some misconception—and disappointment—arises.



"We've driven clear from Los Angeles just to see the elephant trees," one man announced as he and his family stopped at the Fish Creek Ranger Station, which is my post.

I told him how to reach the trees—that from the pavement there was a trail to the trees that took 45 minutes to hike. This sandy sideroad to the trees doesn't permit the passage of low conventional autos.

A 45-minute hike was fine with him. His family was bursting with eagerness to get on the trail and see the plant curiosities.

Later in the day I drove my patrol jeep to where I had suggested the family leave their car. Sure enough, there it was—and at that same moment the returning Los Angeles family appeared on the trail.

From the looks on their faces I should have known better than to ask, but I did anyway:



ENLARGEMENT OF STRANGE TREE'S BLOSSOMS

"How did you enjoy the elephant trees?"

"Trees!" cried the father in answer to my question. "Do you call those scrubby things trees? We've come over 200 miles to see something that isn't as big as the fig tree in our back yard!"

They were disappointed — and so was I. One of the most rewarding things about a ranger's work is the opportunity to see people—especially those cooped-up in a city all week — enjoy the open desert and learn to love and appreciate its beauty.

I decided I would try to salvage something out of their visit.

"Just think," I said, "you have been to one of the very few places in the United States where these trees are found." I went on to tell them everything I knew about the tree.

It would be stretching the truth to say that these people became wildly enthusiastic about elephant trees after listening to my "lecture." However, I am proud of them. They listened and they learned—but what is more important, they have returned many times to Fish Creek where they

enjoy camping. They are now confirmed weekend "desert rats."

The San Francisco couple my wife and I recently met provided a case in contrast. We were returning to the ranger station in Fish Creek late in the evening when our headlights illuminated the figure of a man walking toward us.

Stopping to see if we could be of assistance, we learned that his car was stuck in the sand—buried to the axle. He hopped in the jeep and we drove to the elephant tree turn-off. In a few minutes we reached the car where his wife was calmly awaiting his return.

Earlier in the day they had unwisely driven up the sandy road in an effort to reach the elephant tree site by car. Somehow they had made it to the end of the dirt road, but on their return they ran into trouble in the form of soft sand. The car bogged down — and that was that. Thanks to our rugged four-wheel-drive vehicle, we had the passenger car back on solid ground in no time flat.

I was impressed by the cheerful attitude of these people. They had not been discouraged one whit by their bad luck.

On the contrary. They felt that their visit to the elephant trees had been worth all the discomfort and delay they had endured. In fact, they told us that this day had been the highlight of their vacation trip. They had exposed two rolls of film photographing the elephant trees from every angle. They could not wait to show their friends the "elephants we shot on the desert."

A good many things have been written concerning these botanical oddities. Some elephant tree "facts" have created a false impression. A ranger in another section of the park related a conversation concerning the blood that allegedly flows from the elephant trees. He was approached by a woman park visitor who was keenly interested in the trees. She asked the ranger to verify the fact that if the trees are stabbed with a knife they will bleed white on one side and red on the other. When he

denied this, she produced a printed pamphlet that carried the myth as truth.

It is true that the sap of the elephant tree is red hued. The tissue of the tree is soft and saturated with resin and latex. This fluid will flow from a fresh cut. It is lamentable that these rare trees have suffered considerable damage from brutal slashing by curious but thoughtless experimenters.

Despite the many misconceptions about the elephant trees, they *are* bizarre and unusual. Although the Fish Creek region of Anza-Borrego contains more than 500 elephant trees, these plants must be classed as being among the rarest of California trees. Other scattered stands are found in the Bow Willows and Indian Gorge sections of the park. Several groups of elephant trees in Southern Arizona complete the known locations in the United States.

In Baja California and the Mexican state of Sonora, the elephant tree (*Bursera microphylla*) has a widespread range. The tree found in our



AT THE END OF THE TRAIL: AN ELEPHANT TREE

local regions should not be confused with certain others in Baja California (*Pachycormus discolor* and *Elaphrium macdougalii*) also bearing the common name elephant tree. *Bursera microphylla* is the only one that occurs in the United States.

Exotic as these trees may be, they have had practical economic functions in the past. People in Baja California and Sonora used the bark for tanning, and the flexible branches were woven into Indian basketry. The sap of the pungent-smelling elephant tree was burned as incense, and its fragrance probably perfumed the old missions of Baja California.

More than 15,000 people visited the Fish Creek area this past year. A good many took time to see the elephant trees. November through April is the most comfortable time of the year to explore this desert region. Throughout the summer months the high temperatures discourage all but the most dedicated of desert travelers.

One man's remark after a jaunt to the elephant trees in July points out how the heat can dampen enthusiasm.

"Young man," he said to the ranger, "in my opinion the most interesting thing in this region is a patch of shade."

There is a reward in visiting the elephant trees. The thrill and pleasure of seeing the unique is only part of it. Perhaps even greater is the reward that comes with experiencing the desert spaces. This is a tonic that calms jangled nerves and soothes troubled spirits.

To reach the stands of elephant trees in the Fish Creek area, follow the oiled road running south from the small community of Ocotillo Wells on Highway 78. At 5.5 miles from Ocotillo Wells is the Anza-Borrego Desert State Park sign; .3 mile past this sign a sandy road turns west to the elephant trees. This turn-off is marked by a brown and yellow State Park post. Conventional cars should be parked here, and the remainder of the trip made afoot.

At a point 1.8 miles up the sandy side-road is another brown and yellow post. From here it is a 15-minute hike westward to the first of the trees. By way of special equipment, the visitor should have a canteen of water and stout shoes. The area is rough and rocky.

It's a good trip for a leisurely outing. Take along a picnic lunch. For those who wish to camp overnight, Fish Creek Wash, a few miles farther down the oiled road, provides a beautiful setting for a desert holiday. ///

IF THE ELEPHANT TREES ARE TOO "TAME" FOR YOU, TRY—

Exploring

IF YOU TURN off Highway 78 near Tamarisk Grove Ranger Station and follow the winding road over the summit and down into Borrego Valley, a long range of low yellow hills will appear against the towering Santa Rosa Mountains on the northeast. Extending your gaze eastward, you follow this jumble of hills along the base of the mountains until they seem to dissolve in the distant haze.

This is the Borrego Badlands.

Grim and uninviting as they appear from a distance, you have but to delve into their steep-walled canyons or traverse their sandy arroyos to realize that here is a truly fantastic land almost beyond belief.

Geologists believe that the Salton Basin, of which most of the Badlands is a part, was occupied millions of years ago by an arm of the sea that extended northward from the Gulf of California. While this inland sea existed, the Colorado River was busily piling up silt near its delta until a barrier was built that effectively prevented further incursion by the Pacific.

Geologists believe that the slow sinking of the Salton Basin occurred during the time it was covered by the sea. The waters of this inland sea may have disappeared through one long evaporative period, or their life may have been extended by the addition of water from the Colorado River. However long the sea lasted, geologists agree that once the barrier was formed, the sea was cut off for all time.

There is much evidence to support the belief that down the ages the Colorado River has broken through its channel many times to fill the Salton Basin. One prominent indication is the conspicuous high water line which begins near Travertine Rock and extends southward around the Santa Rosa foothills.

Many hills of the Badland area over which you can walk today once formed the bed of a vast body of fresh water often referred to as Lake Cahuilla. Erosion and upward pressures have distorted them to their present forms, but the evidence of their former state may still be seen in the rounded polished stones, the

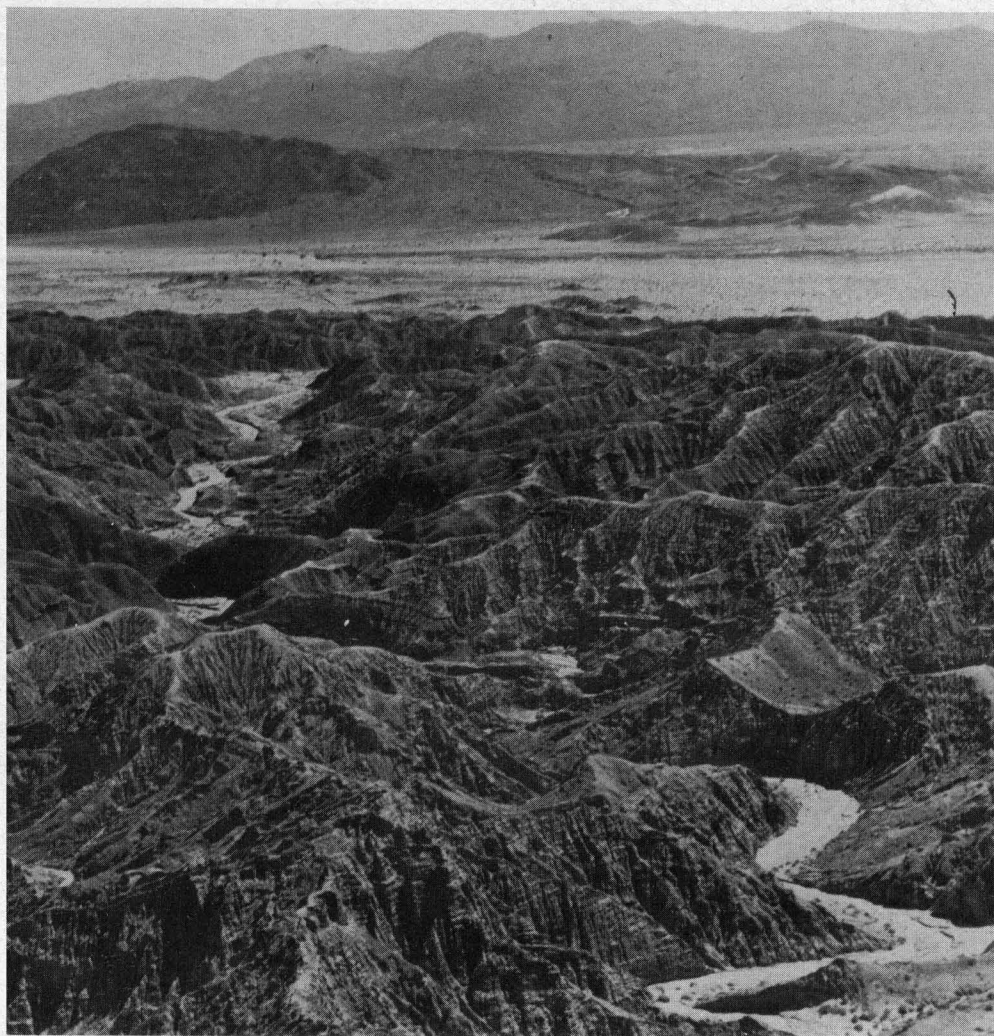


powderlike clay of the terrain, and the fossils and shells of the life that existed in the lake during those ancient times.

Carefree travel through the Badlands is strictly for four-wheel-drive vehicles. Older model stock cars with oversize tires can penetrate parts of it, but a modern low-slung version would be certain to encounter trouble.

A hurried one-day trip through the area would permit a brief visit to many of the scenic spots, but overnight camping is recommended to those who would like a more intimate acquaintance with the region. Despite its closeness to populated sections, there are still new areas to be explored, and undoubtedly many of nature's oddities still await a "first" discovery.

Borrego's Amazing Badlands



in the area, the rangers were able to stop the operation before the tank was emptied.

Although I have never been seriously bitten by the lost mine bug, in 1950 I spent an exciting 10 days in company with the perennial lost mine hunter, Henry E. Wilson, searching for the Pegleg Mine. We explored about every wash in the Badlands, followed countless Indian trails to their endings, and climbed hills that bore only the most remote resemblance to Pegleg Smith's "Three Buttes." Yet we found no gold. However, I did gain a wealth of intimate knowledge about the region and a fund of lost mine lore that could have been acquired in no other way.

And before taking you into the Badlands, let me confess a special fondness for Palm Wash, because it served to introduce me to the Badlands in 1937. In those days the technique for following desert washes was to put your car in second gear, step on the throttle, and keep rolling until you reached your destination, then turn and head downstream.

On the memorable day of my first trip into the Badlands, I entered Palm Wash from Highway 99 and laboriously made my way to the first group of palms. I was just beginning to relax and enjoy the experience when a man came jolting down the wash, and excitedly told me that he had just discovered the cavern homes of an ancient race in which there was a stone relief map which showed another continent in the Pacific Ocean. He was on his way to report it, he told me, but would return in a couple of hours to guide me to it and also show me some mummified pygmies. He never returned. John Hilton told me later that they probably locked him up.

And now, for detailed information on traveling the Badlands trails. If you are a novice "four-wheeler," don't make this trip alone. It is a good idea—always—to go in company with a second vehicle.

A good starting point for a Borrego Badlands trip is the Pegleg Monument, 2.1 miles east of Borrego Village. This entry is preferred because the first stopping place of outstand-

THE VIEW OF "HILLS OF THE MOON WASH" FROM FONT'S POINT

A large portion of Borrego Badlands is within the boundaries of the Anza-Borrego State Park, and campers are expected to follow the Park's regulations. These are posted on signboards throughout the area. If you plan to camp you must have a gas or oil stove for cooking. Open fires are not permitted. There are no restrictions against fires outside the park boundaries, but some of the most attractive scenic spots are utterly barren of vegetation which might provide dry wood for campfires. A supply of your own firewood will permit a wider choice in selecting your campsite. And don't neglect taking a good supply of fresh drinking water. Most of the spring water in the Badlands

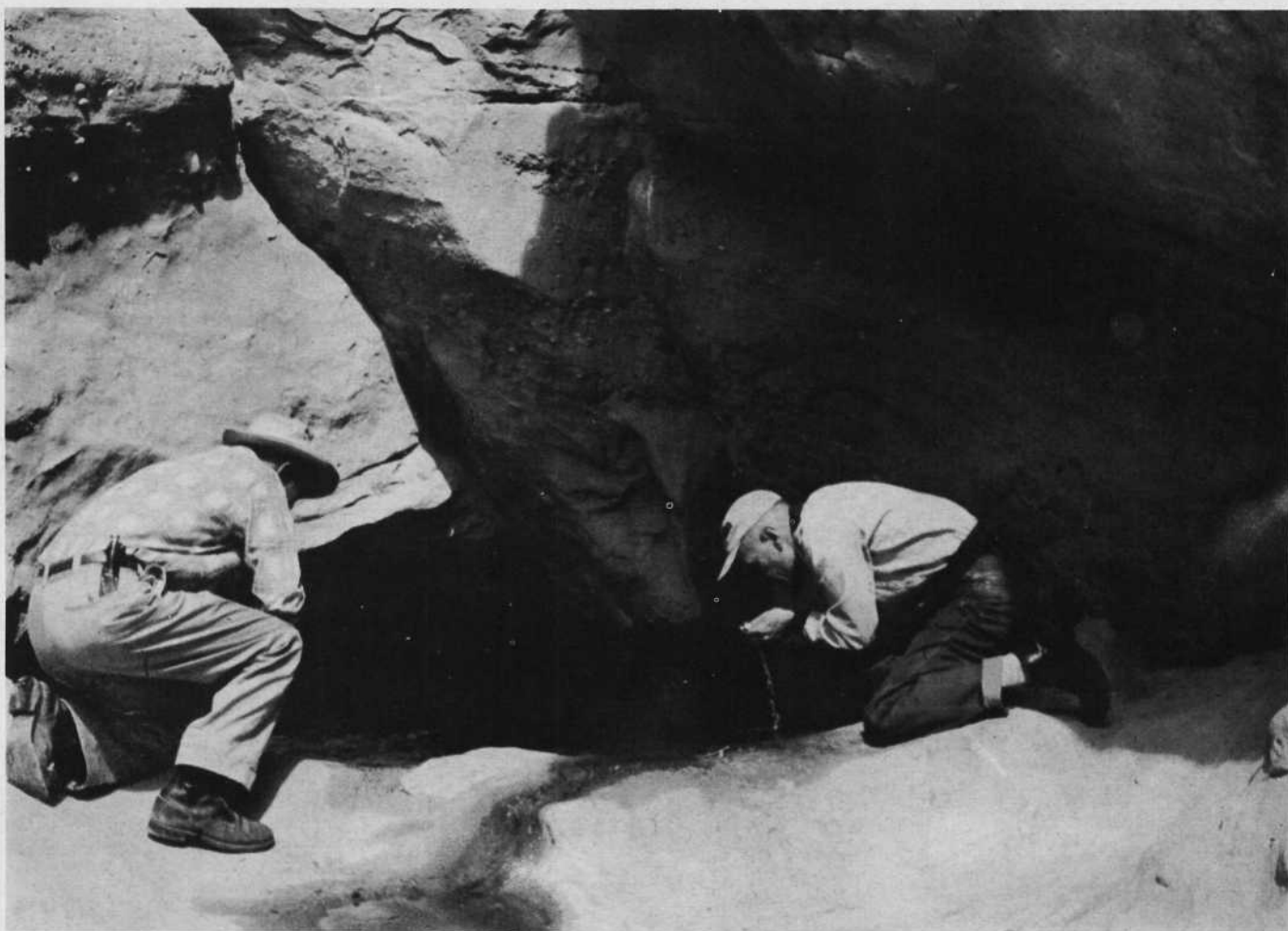
is brackish and not suitable for human consumption.

It is interesting to note that many of the trails outlined below pass through "lost mine" territory. The tales that have come out of the area are many and varied—and most contain loopholes that can't be plugged. But still the search goes on.

One such story deals with the sign, "TO GOLD," carved in the wall near Sheep Tank entrance. One misguided prospector interpreted the sign as meaning that gold could be found at the bottom of Sheep Tank, so he returned with a section of hose and proceeded to siphon the water from the tank. Fortunately for the wildlife



SEVENTEEN PALMS HAS LONG BEEN A HAVEN FOR BORREGO BACKCOUNTRY EXPLORERS AND PROSPECTORS



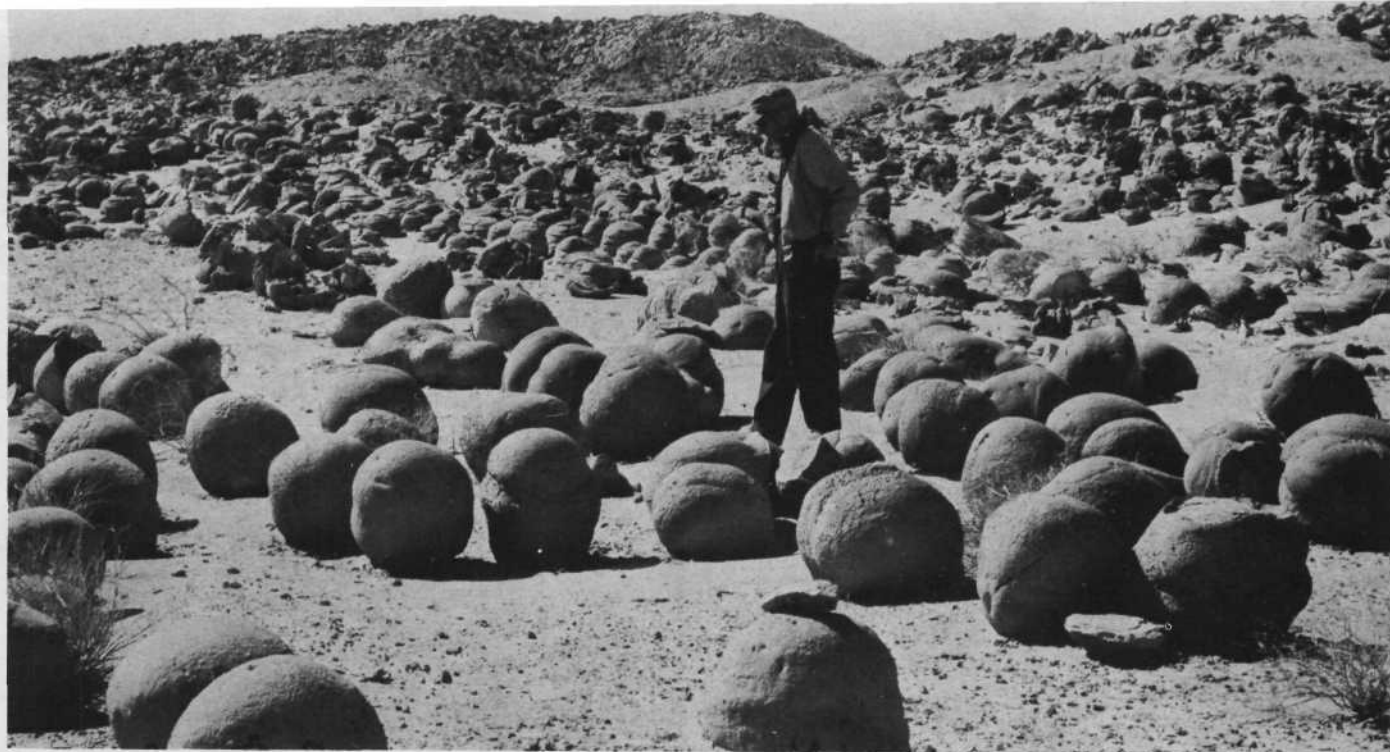
SHEEP TANK, THE ONLY DEPENDABLE SUPPLY OF PURE WATER IN A WIDE AREA, SERVES MAN AND WILDLIFE ALIKE

ing interest is Font's Point. Father Font served as diarist for the De Anza Expedition which passed through Borrego Badlands in December, 1775. From this height you get a preview of the area you are about to enter, and perhaps gain an understanding

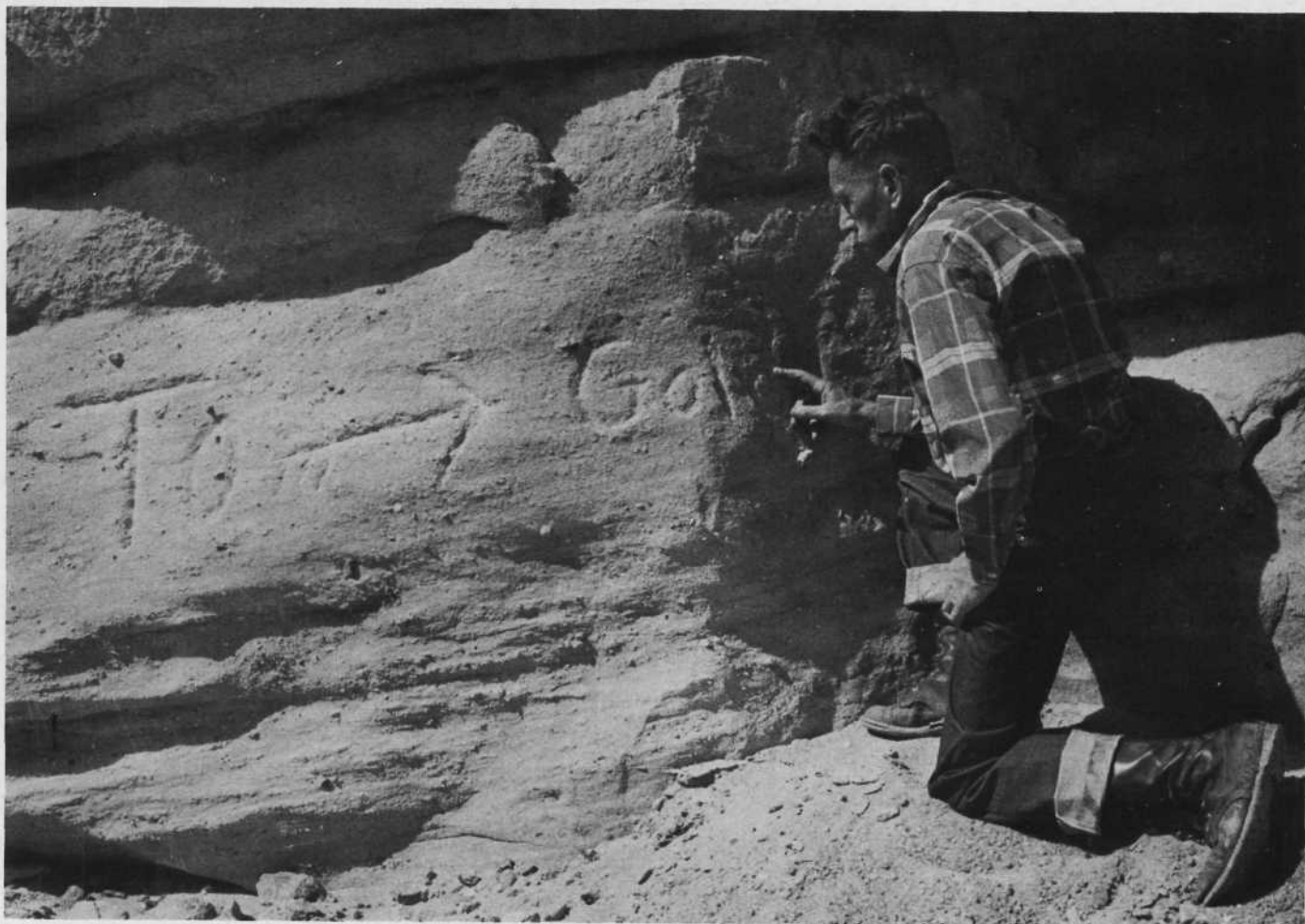
of how the forces of nature have created these bizarre attractions.

From the Pegleg Monument the road (Truckhaven Trail) extends directly east for 3.6 miles to Font's Point Wash. Turn right and proceed up the wash 4.6 miles to Font's Point.

The approach to Font's Point is on so steep a pitch that you are unaware of reaching the end until suddenly the terrain breaks away and leaves you gazing down an erosional pattern that defies description. Hills of the Moon Wash, lying directly below



A SECTION OF THE "PUMPKIN PATCH" WHERE HUNDREDS OF SPHERICAL CONCRETIONS COVER THE LANDSCAPE



INCISED SIGN MAY BE A CLUE TO A GOLD DEPOSIT IN THE BADLANDS—BUT CHANCES ARE IT IS A HOAX

Font's Point, is aptly named. From this vantage point you can trace the network of tiny washes that merge into a stream bed of riverlike proportions, winding toward the distant Salton Sea. You get an unparalleled view of the Colorado Desert — from

Borrego Valley to the Chocolate Mountains, far to the east.

From Font's Point Wash, the Truckhaven Trail continues for 3.9 miles to Palo Verde Wash. A ranger station is located on the right of where Truckhaven Trail crosses the

wash. From Palo Verde Wash the road climbs rocky terrain 2.1 miles to Smoke Tree Wash, then continues on to Ella Wash, .4 mile beyond. Each of these washes is more than a mere name on a map, and time given to exploring their depths is time well

spent. A desert wash has features that set it apart from all other washes. Sometimes its distinguishing features are in its vegetation. Oftentimes the structures and formations of its bordering walls provide the difference. Occasionally it is a special air of serenity that enables you to discard, even though temporarily, the tensions of our modern times, and to "claim" a wash as your personal haven.

The trail enters Arroyo Salada .3 mile beyond Ella Wash, follows the sandy creek bed for 3.2 miles, then turns abruptly to the right to enter a side wash in which Seventeen Palms Oasis is located .4 mile upstream.

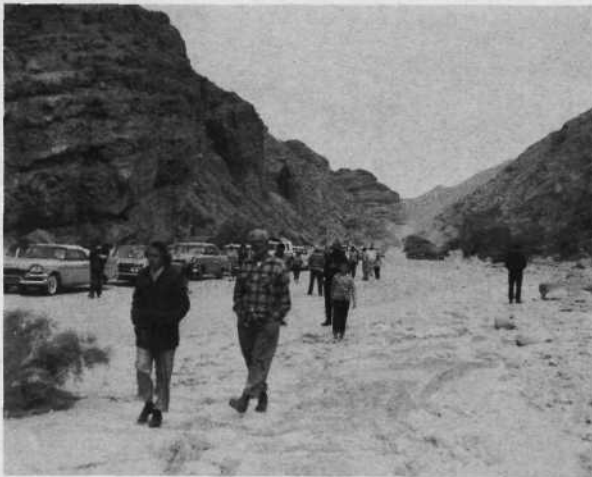
Seventeen Palms has long welcomed travelers in the Borrego Badlands, and Indian trails radiating from the spring indicate that it was in use long before the first whiteman drank from these waters. It is a delightful place in which to camp, and is perhaps the only Badland location that can boast of having a "postoffice." This postoffice, however, is a little on the unorthodox side, consisting merely of a huge glass jar under a palm tree in which visitors have dropped their written comments on their reactions to this isolated oasis.

I visited the oasis on a warm spring day in 1951 and found a note in the jar that bordered on the near tragic.

A group of Mexican Nationals had been wandering aimlessly in the Badlands, almost delirious from heat and thirst, when they stumbled onto the spring at Seventeen Palms. Their note, written in Spanish, told of their plight and humbly offered thanks for their "miraculous deliverance."

As you leave Seventeen Palms, watch for wheel tracks leaving the main wash at the right a few hundred feet below the junction which lead to the Pumpkin Patch. There are several sets of wheel tracks leading out of the wash, and it makes little difference which you follow as long as you find the point where they all converge together on the high land

AN INVITATION TO DESERT MAGAZINE READERS: This is the year to visit Anza-Borrego Desert State Park. The reason is a simple one: rain. Summer storms came to the right places at the right times, and the net result will be a desert that is more verdant this winter than it has been



PARK VISITORS ON A GUIDED TOUR

in many a year. If you would see and enjoy the desert in this rare mood, come to Anza-Borrego this season. . . . The Park contains 480,000 acres—largest unit of the California State Park System. By traveling Anza-Borrego's 60 miles of paved roads, it is possible for you to visit the developed areas—but our 500 miles of dirt roads and dry washes will take you to remote corners of the un-

spoiled desert—some of the last remaining natural features of the Great Colorado Desert. . . . From mountain elevations of nearly 6000 feet above sea level, to the level of the sea itself, you will see wide sweeping vistas, narrow rockbound canyons, colorful washes and painted badlands. Except for the fact that you must share these wonders with your fellow citizens, this treasuretrove of nature is all yours. . . . Yours, too, is the song of the coyote and the call of the owl; the fleeting glimpse of the Desert Bighorn Sheep; blooming cacti; tall stately palm trees growing where nature planted them; and—if more rains bless us this winter—carpets of blooming wildflowers will add color to the brown and tan of rock and sand. . . . Ancient sea beds and lake bottoms will give you the perspective of timelessness. Broken pottery fragments in fire pits and smoke-blackened cave shelters will link you with this country's ancient heritage. And you can rub shoulders with our more recent past by traveling the Southern Emigrant Corridor—the route of Anza, the Butterfield Stage, and the Mormon Battalion. . . . As for camping, Anza-Borrego offers wide selection—from a remote desert oasis for the person seeking solitude, to the bustle of a full and active campground. Trailer hook-ups and campsites are available at the headquarters campground. . . . Anza Borrego is unique among State Parks in that we allow camping in any suitable location throughout our confines. If you like primitive camping, bring water and the means for cooking. Open fires on the ground are not permitted. . . . Last year, 500,000 people visited our area. If you were one of them, welcome back. If you plan a first visit to the area, welcome also!

—CLYDE E. STRICKLER, *Park Supervisor*

**Thanks to favorable summer rains,
the coming season promises to be an exceptional one in the Anza-Borrego Country.**

above the wash. Follow the winding trail through a stream bed in the clay hills until you reach the familiar yellow and brown Park location post marking Tule Wash, then travel the wash past the Park boundary sign until you come to an area containing hundreds of huge spherical concretions. This is the Pumpkin Patch. Distance from Seventeen Palms is about four miles.

Returning to Seventeen Palms, continue up Arroyo Salada 1.5 miles until the Truckhaven Trail marker post appears on your right. This post is not very conspicuous, and a sharp look-out must be kept to avoid miss-

ing it completely. Follow the Truckhaven Trail for 2.7 miles to where it joins another road which extends down into a wash from the top of the mesa. This is the Calcite Mine Road, and extends two miles into the base of the mountains where they mined calcite for gunsights during World War II. Follow this road to where it drops from the mesa into a second arroyo known as Palm Wash, and continue down the wash for about 2.5 miles to the Park boundary sign on the north side of the wash. A side-wash enters the main wash at this point. Proceed up this wash for 1.9 miles where the trail passes between

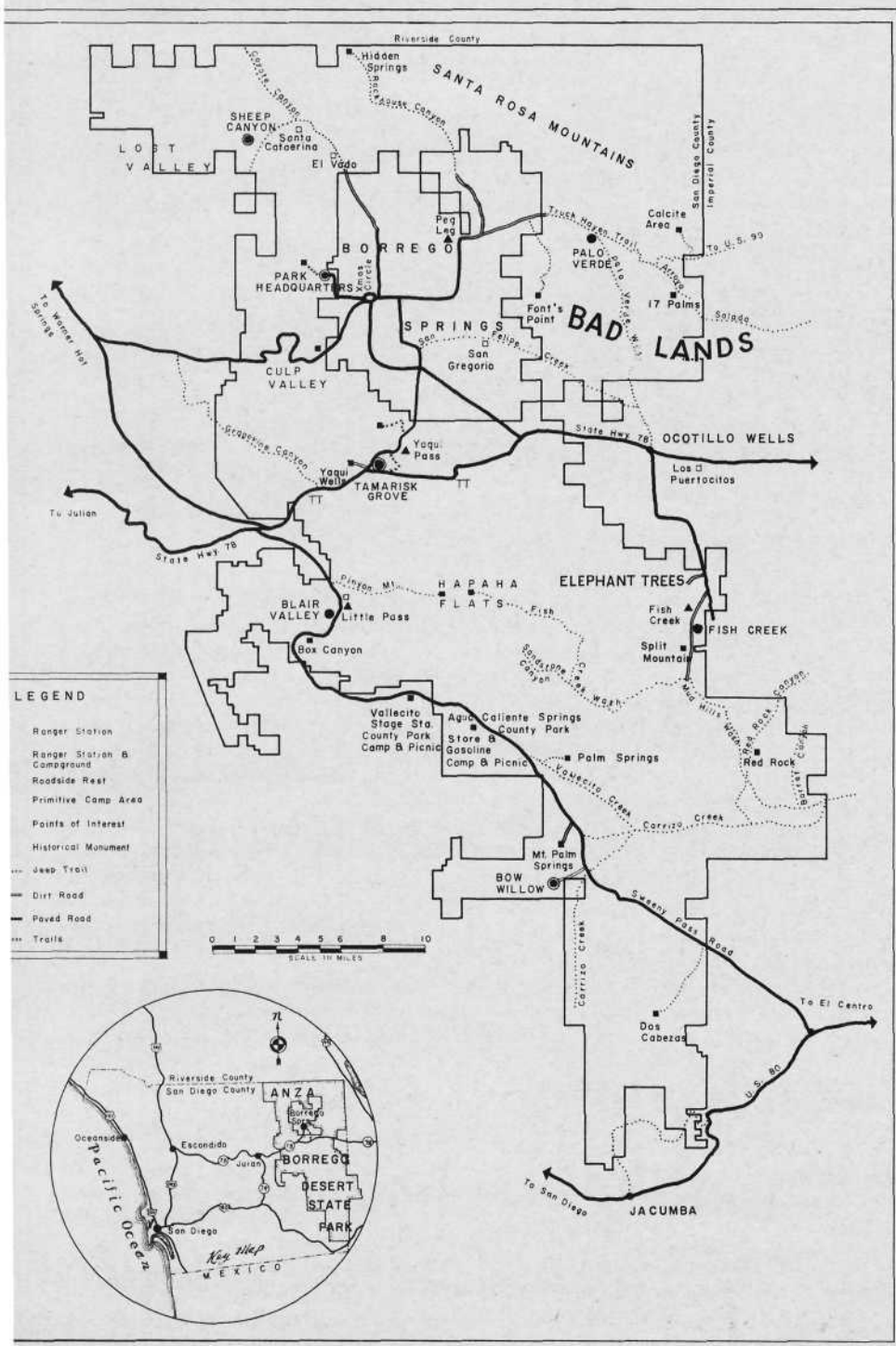
narrow canyon walls and ends for vehicular travel. A short walk through a rock-strewn wash brings you to Sheep Tank, a long-time watering place for prospectors and desert wildlife. The tank, a natural basin in the sandstone, is kept supplied by storm waters. A sign carved into a side-wall indicates that it was known as far back as 1887, when N. N. Nunn and H. D. O'Neill visited the tank.

Normally, "four-wheelers" can make the full distance to Sheep Tank without difficulty, but even when driving conditions are good it is advisable to walk part of the distance. This is Desert Bighorn country and with a ready camera you may be able to obtain some photo shots of this rarely seen and much less frequently photographed desert denizen.

As you enter Palm Wash from Sheep Tank Wash, and follow it down its course, you will see groups of palms at various intervals along the wash. Many of the stands of palm trees mark the location of waterholes that were used by the Indians who inhabited the Badlands some 150 years ago. Many of the trails leading to these sites may still be seen from the high ground bordering the wash. The last group of palms in the wash before it passes under Highway 99, 3.3 miles distant, has long served as a landmark for the area and marks, approximately, the eastern boundary of the Badlands. One mile south of this landmark there is a nearly hidden oasis known as Four Palm Spring that provides one of the most pleasant camping spots in the whole Badlands region. Shady palms, sheltering hills, isolation, and in seasons of normal rainfall, crystal pools fed by a miniature waterfall—all are available at this little known waterhole.

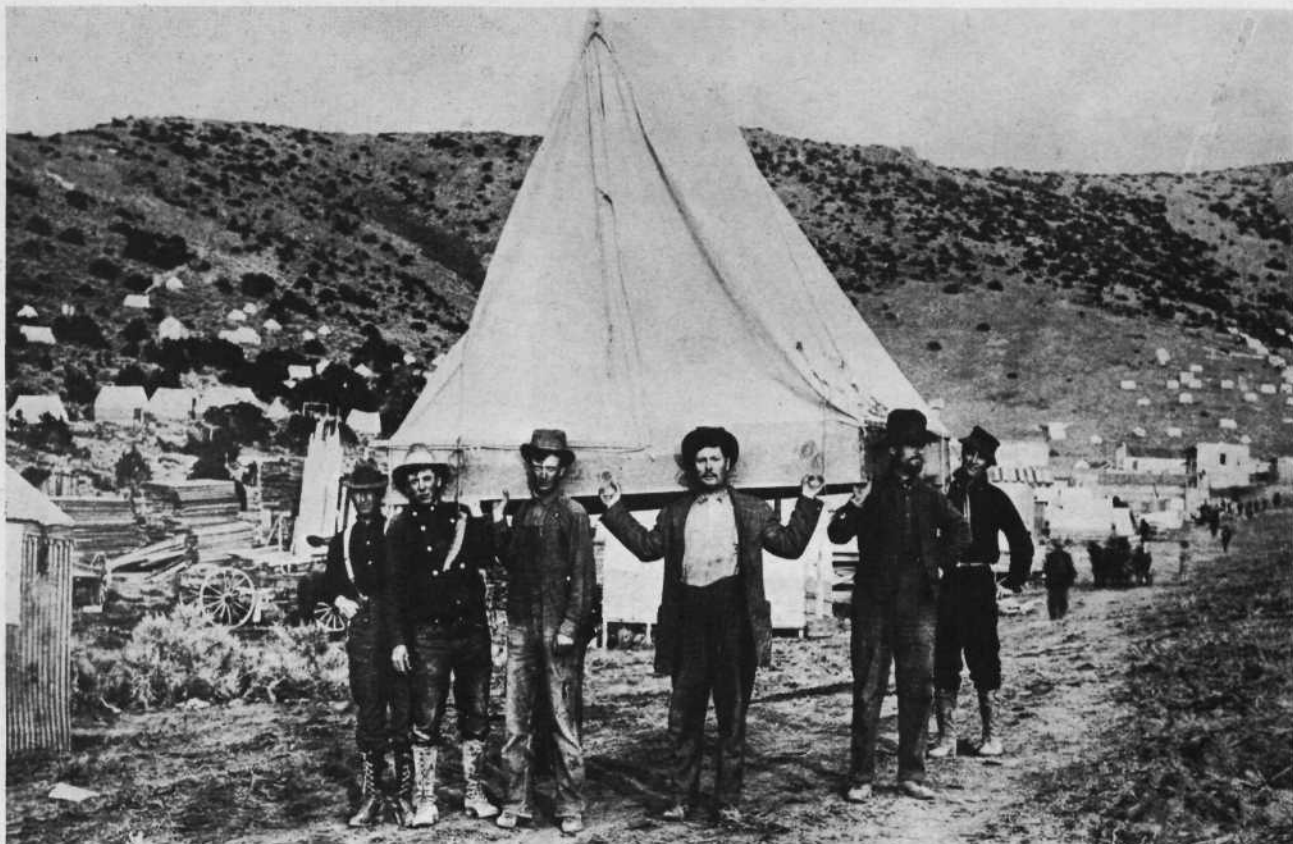
In the days of the burro prospector, the Badlands were all that their name implies. Many luckless desert travelers vanished into its washes, never to be seen again. But, thanks to four-wheel-drive vehicles, a Badlands trek today can be a safe and exciting adventure. You can find a variety of scenery to suit every taste, and if it's solitude you seek, perhaps you can travel for a full day through its maze of washes, as I did recently, without seeing another person.

When leaving the Badlands you may continue down Palm Wash to Highway 99, or retrace your route over the Truckhaven Trail. But whichever exit you choose, be certain to plan a return trip. There are many trails yet to follow in this bewildering land. I have just covered the highlights in this article. ///



NO PLACE LIKE HOME

--particularly in Nevada during the rush for paydirt--



HOUSE-MOVING DAY IN THE BOOM CAMP OF ROCHESTER, NEVADA

CAPE COD fishermen put model ships in bottles, but early Tonopah miners put people in them.

During its bonanza days, Nevada's desert delivered generously of gold and silver, but when it came to natural resources from which to construct shelter, the land was bare. Immediately after prospector Jim Butler's burro wandered off and discovered a \$200,000,000 ore deposit, Tonopah exploded into a city of tents. These provided cover for the first few years . . . until "respectful" women arrived, and mama demanded something more substantial than canvas between her family and the raw desert.

Lively 83-year-old Lottie Nay, the first woman to come to Tonopah, lives in a snug cottage on a hill overlooking roof-tops that replaced the tent-tops she remembers from mining camp days of long ago.

A few years after the turn of the century, when Lottie boarded 30 miners in a tent-house, Tonopah-style tents were quite different from

staked-to-the-ground tents. They had to be to withstand 70-mile-an-hour gales and tremendous loads of snow. Miners stripped wagons, crates and all other sources of wood for the lumber that went into floors and low side foundations. A pitched frame was erected over the wood foundation and canvas stretched over it. Later, when lumber began to be hauled in, the canvas top was replaced with wood.

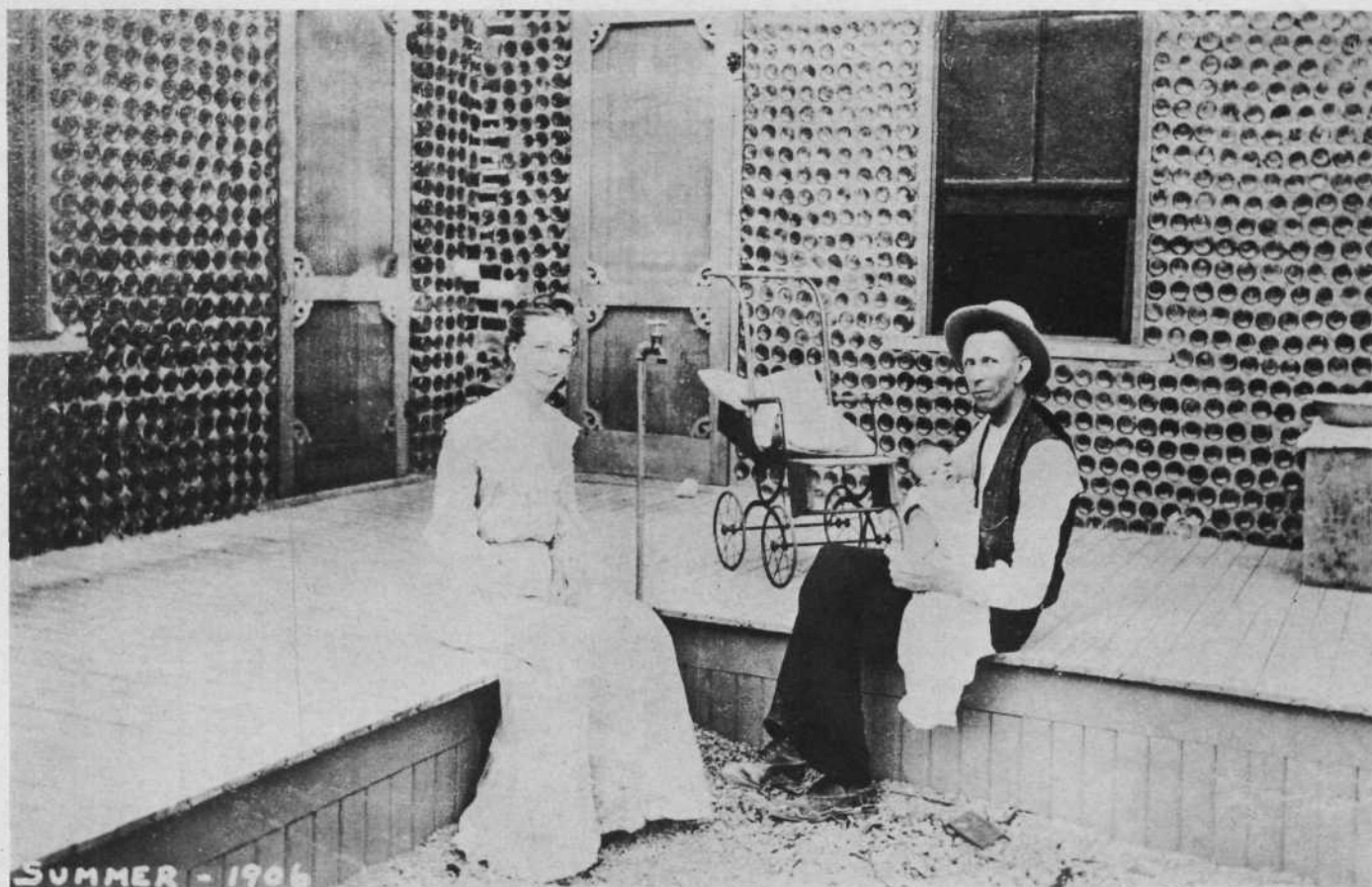
The only bad feature in this method of converting from canvas to wood, recalls Lottie, was when a tent had a low peak and the owner made no allowances for it when converting to wood. Then he was not able to stand upright inside the house. According to Lottie, this disaster occurred rather frequently. Such a structure was referred to as a "lying-in" house.

Traditionally, men in mining camps consumed enormous quantities

of coffee and whiskey. Not so in Tonopah. Lottie's boarders drank tea! It all came about during a storm that left the entire camp snowbound for a month. The only shipment of coffee that got through was a barrel of unground beans. Lottie didn't have a grinder. While rummaging through her supplies in hopes of finding a misplaced ration of coffee, she came upon an ore sack filled with squaw tea. Lottie brewed some, and her boys remained faithful to the native desert drink even after the thaw.

Most of Lottie's boarders worked too hard to be discontented, but one cantankerous individual named Dykes ran contrary to the rule. Or perhaps he just didn't like tea. At any rate, he became fed-up with communal living, and threatened to build a house of his own. Everyone scoffed. There was no forest, no brick factory—Dykes had no canvas for a tent. What would he use? His imagination! He collected empty barrels from around camp, filled them with dirt, piled them against a ledge, and thus created the first all-wood structure in

By CORKE LOWE
of Las Vegas Nevada



RHYOLITE'S BOTTLE HOUSE, SUMMER OF 1906. THE FAMILY IS NAMED BENNETT.

Tonopah. Until recently, Dykes' barrel house stood as a historic curiosity and was the subject for many camera addicts.

Another lone-wolf constructed his lair with dirt-filled oil cans staggered

one atop the other. Unlike Dykes' barrel house, this home's neatly framed windows and tidy design suggested its owner's cherished hopes for a bride.

Man's quest for a mate instigated

the first real house to be built upon Brougher Hill, now Tonopah's most fashionable district. The man was rich Cal Brougher, who gave his name to the hill. His contemplated bride was Tonopah's first widow, a beautiful young matron named May.

Cal pursued May strenuously, but



THE BARREL HOUSE WAS ONE OF EARLY TONOPAH'S MORE SUBSTANTIAL HOMES



THE TONOPAH "MYSTERY HOUSE." SECRET ROOM IS UNDER TOWER CUPOLA.

made no headway at all. Desperate, he bribed a mule skinner who normally transported food into Tonopah, to haul in enough lumber for a house. This, Cal reasoned, no woman could resist. As the structure took shape, everyone referred to it as "May's house."

Unfortunately for Cal, the house was no sooner built when May was carried across the threshold of a tent house in another swain's arms. Today—six decades later—the cozy cottage still stands; it is still referred to by some old-timers as "May's house."

Certainly, the most ingenious des-

ert residence was the bottle house. Beer bottles, jelly jars, whiskey flasks, vinegar jugs—all were embedded in adobe mud to form upright walls with intricate mosaic patterns. Inside the house, small-necked openings protruded from the plaster to form interesting three-dimensional designs.

Hearty as burros, bottle houses have withstood all. An excellent example is presently being furnished with local relics by a group of Tonopah women headed by Mrs. E. Titlowe. A bottle house in neighboring Goldfield came through the devastating fire of the 1920s, and continues to this day to shelter Mrs. Adele Chase, 76-year-old widow of Goldfield's first attorney. Built by a mining engineer and his wife, this structure was the earliest house in Goldfield. Through many years and owners, it has been enlarged to three rooms (the rear section is not of bottle construction). One of the owners, attempting to modernize the place, covered the exterior bottle walls with stucco, and the interior with wallboard. Happily, the stucco has fallen away in places to reveal the glass bottle ends.

Mrs. Chase moved into the bottle house several years ago, after selling the celebrated Tex Rickard home which her husband purchased for her when she came to Goldfield as his bride. The Rickard house, though



TONOPAH TODAY. VIEW IS FROM LOTTIE NAY'S HOUSE ON BROUGHER HILL



LOTTIE NAY — FIRST WOMAN IN TONOPAH

by no means ordinary in itself, is best known for its "champagne lawn."

In 1907 Rickard paid \$30,000 for his half-acre lot. The four-room brick house cost \$23,000 to build. Some mining camps boasted of streets paved with silver, but Rickard reached for the more spectacular. He surrounded his desert abode with grass. The water bill was over \$125 each month.

No community is complete without a mystery. Tonopah's old houses provide that, too. High on a hill silhouetted against the sky, a lonely castle stands aloof. Many stories go with this house, empty now except for tell-tale evidences of past occupancy such as a remnant of paisley print tacked over an upstairs dormer window, an ancient ice box with its door hanging by one hinge, and, on the rear porch, a three-legged milk stool which must have originated in more fertile pastures than Tonopah.

The place is known as the Raycraft house, but it was built by another owner who lived in it a few years before the Raycrafts took possession. The house, unique from its exterior, is surprisingly ordinary inside—except for a secret room in the upstairs tower. Ventilated by a small screened opening, this windowless room is completely encircled within by a built-in bench attached to the wall.

The hidden room has stimulated uncertain speculation among its parade of occupants, but the most plausible theory comes from a descendant of an old-timer who knew the original owner.

Mining people, like show people, are notoriously superstitious. History

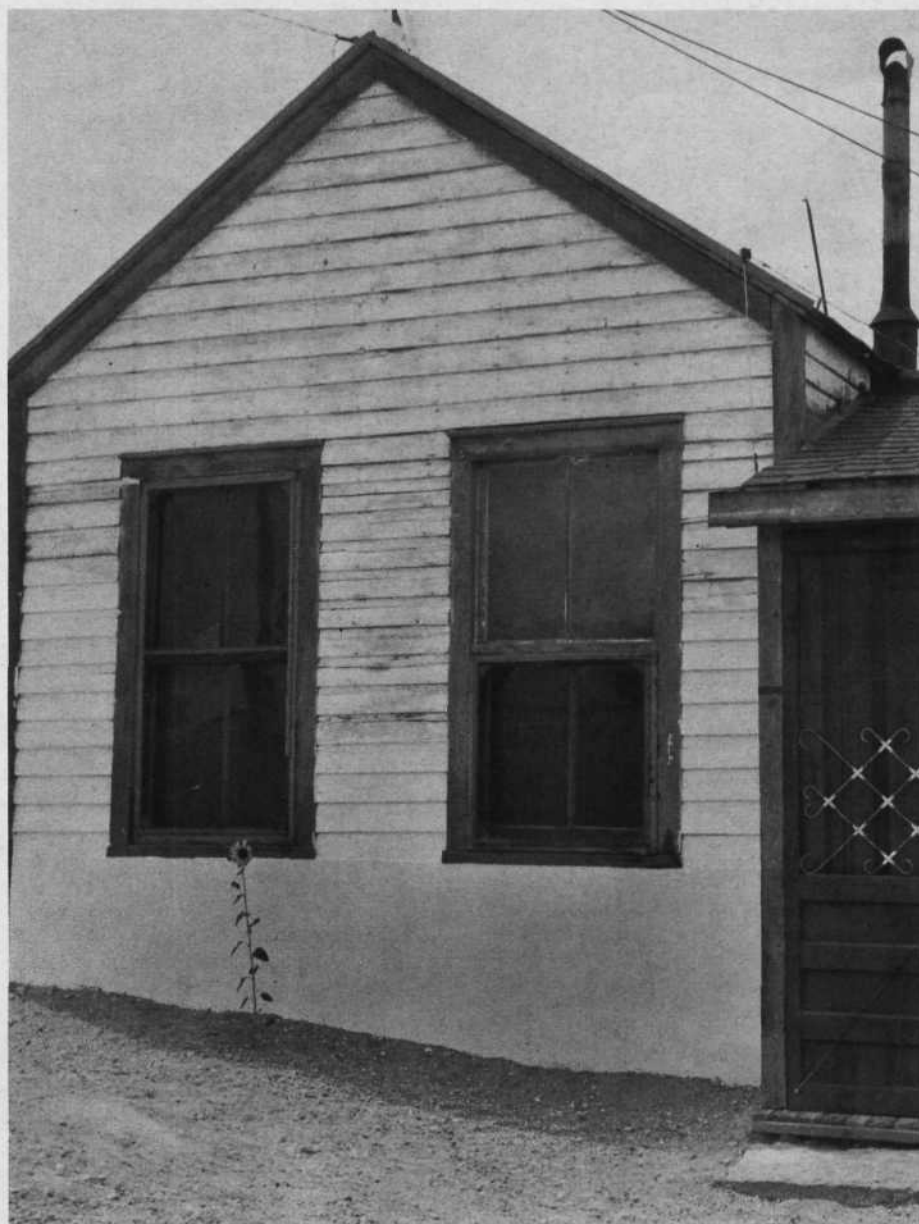
bears out that Eilley Orrum and her "peeping stone" played an important part in the discovery and management of the Comstock Lode. Other mining camps cherish equally strange tales regarding the luck or power of sorcery. Tonopah is no exception. In this case, the Lady of the Castle "communed." On the top of the castle's turret is a spire. A huge glass ball, turned violet by sun rays, once embellished its apex. The Lady of the Castle used to meditate in her secluded room, joined in seance by followers who sat with joined hands around the circular bench. Somehow the glass ball on the roof attracted spirits, and by some metaphysical process, messages were relayed to those who waited quietly below.

Whether sorcery fostered fortune or not, we can't say. It is possible that the lady and her mine-owner husband left town broke, but others

say he sold his mine for a profit and moved on to further success. The true answer even Lottie Nay doesn't know!

Tonopah of late has been enjoying a boom of sorts, stemming from its proximity to the atomic test site. Modern cement block houses mingle with the old, but most dwellings consist of typical white-washed miner's shacks like Lottie's, left over from boom days of long ago.

Here aged widows rock on porches when it's warm, aged men huddle close to pot-bellied stoves when it's cold. Kitchens remain fragrant with the smell of gingerbread cookies and, of course, there's always the pungent scent of squaw tea. Sometimes a lone sunflower will push its bright head above the impossibly sterile soil, as if to say. "Don't underestimate vitality in Tonopah. Look at me!" ///



A SUNFLOWER GROWS IN TONOPAH

MINI-BIKES:



--the latest, most exciting way to whiz along desert trails

A COMPACT NEW breed of mechanical animal is attracting attention lately, and seems sure to find a place in desert activity. They call them "mini-bikes," though they are not bicycles. And—because of their peculiar construction—they are neither motorcycle nor scooter. The powerful little machines quite probably will fill the void between the bike rider and the four-wheel-drive driver. They should not be confused with the "Tote-Gote" type of two-wheeled vehicle. Mini-bikes have a personality and a purpose quite apart from their larger brothers.

WHAT IS A MINI-BIKE?

The main differences between a mini-bike and a Tote-Gote, Trail-Boss, or Pak-Jak breed of vehicle are in size, weight, and speed. For example, mini-bike height is about 30 inches, length 45 inches, and total weight as little as 46 pounds. Power is usually a 2½- or 5-horsepower two-cycle engine. But because of the light weight of these vehicles, speeds are

high—some of them attain up to 55 miles per hour!

Outside diameter of the tire on a mini-bike is around 11 inches, which will give you an idea of their compact nature. Equipped with tiny centrifugal clutch and a rewind-type rope starter, these little packages of fury will surprise even the most pessimistic observer on a trail ride. Acceleration is terrific for such a small power package, and the tire bite exceptional for the traction surface involved.

Prices range from about \$150 for standard mini-bikes to about \$375 for the super-deluxe models. The most popular model at present sells for about \$165. Price differences are usually the result of horsepower options, which can jack the cost considerably.

WHAT'S THEIR PURPOSE?

Originally, the mini-bike was a plaything that eventually evolved into a practical asset to the outdoor family. Carried in car or trailer, or strapped to the back of boat or airplane, these tiny machines can be used to advantage in the following manner:

1—Scouting roads, campsites, sand-traps, or washed-out trails ahead of cars towing trailers.

2—Fetching tools, food, water, or supplies from distant points when the primary vehicle is tied up.

3—Exploring country unsuitable for cars and trucks. Not everyone can afford a four-wheel-drive vehicle. The mini-bike fills the void in certain situations.

4—Recreation. Riding lonely trails in morning or evening hours can be most enjoyable, and allows the owner to see country inaccessible by car.

I can think of a good instance where an emergency vehicle of this type would be very handy. Suppose you were between supply points, and your car ran out of gas. A mini-bike gets about 80 miles to the gallon of fuel. It's strong enough to carry up to 250 pounds (including driver) without difficulty, and will cruise at 35- to 40-miles-per-hour with ease.

LIMITATIONS

Mini-bikes are not heavy-duty vehicles. It isn't recommended that more than a single rider with 50-

By V. LEE OERTLE

pounds of extra gear be carried on long hauls. But for ordinary desert trails and beaches they'll carry a rider and light load in relative comfort and reasonable speed for miles.

They'll climb fairly steep grades, but it is more a matter of traction-loss than lack of horsepower that limits their hill-climbing ability. The small tires are chain-driven. Chains have a bad habit of breaking or slipping off the sprocket in really rough country. The rider should always carry a few spare chain master-links.

Fuel is another problem. Standard models usually have a one-quart tank. This is enough gas to cover 20 miles on flat trails, or 12 to 15 miles in steep terrain. By removing the small standard tank and installing a one-gallon fuel tank, range is quadrupled.

WHERE NOT TO USE THEM

Mini-bikes are excellent for any

sort of intermediate duty, but for off-trail expeditions into deep wilderness, I don't recommend them. That situation demands a more specialized, more rugged, more expensive vehicle.

The surest way to make enemies is to fire up the two-cycle bike engine and carom around camp all day, raising dust, making noise, and emitting fumes. It's best to walk the mini-bike to the edge of camp, fire it up, and ride slowly away from camp. Then give it the gun, if you like.

All states have laws governing motorized vehicles. Mini-bikes cannot be operated on public roads without licensing, and the addition of these items: tail-light, stop-light, head-light, horn, and proper registration certificate. The difficulty of meeting these requirements varies by region. California, for example, has instructed the Highway Patrol to stop mini-bikes and check for the above equipment.

Off the road, it's another story. Private roads or open country are subject only to laws of reason and trespass considerations. Obviously, no type of vehicle should enter a high fire-hazard area without good excuse.

SPECIAL USES

As mentioned above, families with camper-coaches, travel trailers or other towed equipment will find the mini-bikes an extremely valuable aid. Sometimes the motorized bike will be used to run from camp to the store for milk or a small bag of groceries. This side-steps the necessity of breaking camp with the primary vehicle—a decided nuisance, at times.

Another use I've made of these vehicles is for tracking down better campsites. Also: looking for strayed children or pets, or seeking late-arriving friends.

One of the most enjoyable pursuits with a mini-bike is to gather a group

MINI-BIKES GET TERRIFIC MILEAGE: ABOUT 20 MILES PER QUART



of friends owning the tiny machines and make a cross-country day of it to some difficult objective.

I have observed boat-owners along the Colorado River with mini-bikes strapped to their decks or gunwales. I can only guess at their value here, but it would appear to be a good way to chase down supplies that are far from the water's edge. Perhaps they could also be used to search desolate river canyons for rock specimens, since the river flows through some pretty remote geography—where roads are bad and far between.

I have personally used a mini-bike

to scout old mines and climb rocky ridges in search of more interesting photographs. Saves effort, time, and wear-and-tear on shoe leather! Here is a way to see more country in less time.

Mini-bikes are surprisingly reliable and free from operational breakdown. But, it is advisable to take the following precautions for use in desert locales:

1—Replace standard tanks with one-gallon capacity fuel containers.

2—Install an extra-large air-cleaner to cope with dusty trails.

3—Rider should carry spare master-links for chain drive.

At the present time, there are about ten manufacturers known to be making mini-bikes, under such trade-names as the Bug Flea, Savage, Caper Cycle, Scoot-Nik, Mathews, Go-Kart Scrambler, and others.

Used in the right places in the right manner, there is every reason to believe that mini-bikes can become a real camper's friend. Those who first penetrate the desert with them will set the pattern that eventually determines their popularity! ///



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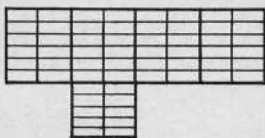


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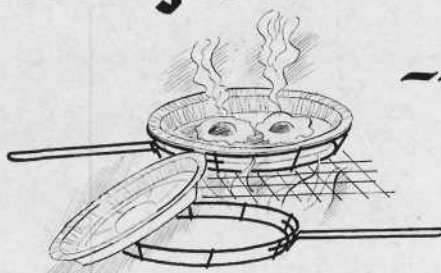
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Cooking Over an Open Fire

--the Easy Way!

By PEGGY POWELL



NOW THAT the hot weather is past, it is time once again to go out into the desert. But, too many folks forego the thrill of visiting the more remote scenic areas simply because they have an idea that camping — and especially cooking over an open fire — is a lot of work.

It needn't be.

I'm as allergic to work as the next person, and I've spent a lot of time thinking up ways to eliminate it, especially on a junket into the desert backcountry. Here are some of them:

COOK EVERYTHING in disposable utensils—in its own container, in coffee cans, or aluminum pie tins. You can buy heavy wire holders to fit the 9-inch aluminum pans and make it easy to lift them from the fire (see illustration). If you want a handle for your coffee cans, thread a loop of heavy wire through two holes punched near the top.

INSTEAD OF a mixing bowl, prepare food in throw-away coffee cans. Make salads and seafood cocktails in plastic bags, tie a knot in the bag lay it on ice to chill.

ELIMINATE GREASY frying pans by barbecuing steaks and chops in small wire steak grills. At breakfast, use the grill to toast bread.

DURING THE year save those aluminum tins that frozen TV dinners come in. They make wonderful camp dishes. Small pie tins — the chicken pie size — substitute as bowls for cereal, canned fruit, etc.

TAKE ALONG a heavy iron skillet for emergencies — in case you use up your disposable utensils or for those few foods, such as pancakes, that aren't cooked satisfactorily in anything else.

WRAP ALUMINUM foil around the bottom of the skillet to keep it from getting soot-blackened. Do the same to your coffee pot, or set it on an aluminum pie tin to keep it clean.

ELIMINATE THE possibility of broken glass by carrying bottled

goods—syrup, salad dressings, vinegar, catsup—in plastic containers, such as most detergents come in.

CARRY EGGS in plastic cartons and butter and cheese in coffee cans. Seal the lids with adhesive tape.

TAKE SOME boxes of flavored gelatin for the children. By mixing it with cold water you can give them a sweet drink that is better for them than bottled carbonated drinks. Don't forget to take a big supply of powdered milk for cereal and hot chocolate as well as drinking.

SHOP FOR canned goods throughout the year. This eases the pinch of putting out a lot of money all at once. Bargains and variety are always better in city super markets than

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in little country stores where you're apt to be shopping on a camp trip.

BUY YOUR perishables—eggs, bacon, butter, lettuce, tomatoes—at the last town you go through before setting up camp. And every time you have to go to the store nearest camp for ice or other supplies, take advantage of the opportunity and get fresh meat for dinner.

PLAN AHEAD and eliminate a lot of work. When you have a fire going for breakfast, make some tea in a large coffee can and have iced tea for lunch without building another fire. Or cook some macaroni and prepare a salad for dinner so it will have all day to chill. If you're making instant mashed potatoes for dinner, fix enough for potato patties for breakfast. If you are serving canned ham at night, save a slice for the next morning.

THREE OF the handiest items you can have in your camp kitchen are a roll of aluminum foil (for wrapping leftovers, and cooking food in the coals of your fire), a stack of paper bags (to serve as trash boxes) and a roll or two of paper towels (for face cloths, dish rags, tea towels, handkerchiefs, dust rags, place mats and napkins).

SET UP your kitchen down-wind from the rest of your camp, but keep it close to your camping gear to save steps.

MAKE YOUR fireplace out of items nature provides. Construct a three-sided support for your cooking grill out of rocks that are as near the same size as possible. Pack dirt around the outside of the rocks to plug the cracks. Leave the open end at right angles to the prevailing wind to keep the smoke from blowing in your face. To test for levelness, place a cup of water on the grill before you light the fire.

BUILD YOUR fire in a cleared area, away from low-hanging branches. And, of course, never leave your fire without covering it with dirt or dousing with water.

CAMP COOKING needn't have a pork-and-bean monotony. Some really delicious and filling dishes can be prepared with little effort. Each of the following recipes makes two generous servings.

Corned Beef Skillet Dinner

Heat a small amount of salad oil in an aluminum pie tin or an iron skillet. Peel and cut into thin slices two large potatoes and two large onions. Cook until tender, stirring occasionally and adding small

amounts of water if needed. When the vegetables are cooked, crumble a can of corned beef into the skillet. Heat until meat is hot.

Creamed Chicken Over Rice

Use quick-cooking rice, following cooking directions on the box. Heat required amount of water in a coffee can, add the rice, place the lid firmly on the can, remove from the fire and let the rice steam to a fluffy goodness. At the same time, heat together a can of undiluted cream of chicken soup with a small can of boned chicken and serve over the cooked rice.

Cream Tuna Over Noodles

Cook noodles in a large coffee can, while heating together a can of undiluted cream of mushroom soup and a can of tuna. For easy variations, substitute a jar of chipped beef for the tuna. Or serve over rice, toast or mashed potatoes instead of noodles.

Peas and Onions in Cheese Sauce

In a large coffee can melt a 2-inch square chunk of processed cheese with about three tablespoons of liquid from a can of peas. Drain the peas and add to melted cheese along with a small can of drained tiny whole onions. Heat and serve in little pie tins.

Kidney Bean Salad

Drain a can of kidney beans, add diced celery and onion and toss with French dressing. For variation, substitute a can of garbanzo or lima beans.

Pea and Cheese Salad

Drain a can of peas, add 1 cup diced Tillamook cheese, 1 cup diced sweet pickles and toss with mayonnaise. ///

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DESERT MAGAZINE BOOKSHOP Palm Desert, Calif.

GROUND SQUIRRELS

-- the
desertland's
most frequently
observed
wildlings

GROUND SQUIRRELS, the small Antelope and Round-tailed kinds that frequent lower desert flats, are perhaps the most frequently seen desert animals. The larger Ground Squirrels are not as often seen because they are confined to wild rocky uninhabited areas, and mesquites and pinyons of the desert mountains.

These animals belong to a different division of rodents than the tree-dwelling squirrels. They are given the generic name *Citellus* (sit-ELL-us), a designation derived from the Siberians in whose Asiatic land these animals are plentiful and may have had their origin. Like the North American Indians, they came to this area across the land bridge that once existed between the two continents. All Ground Squirrels are given to living in burrows mostly made by themselves, and so are spoken of as Digger Squirrels, in contrast to the forest-dwelling Tree Squirrels.

Excepting just after the moult and the donning of a new coat of hair, the larger kinds of Ground Squirrels are not particularly attractive creatures, but nevertheless are interesting because of their varied manners. All have speckled hairy coats of gray mixed with black or brown, and lighter underparts. The ears are short, the head flattened, the black eyes prominent. The tail is used as a balancing organ or brake, giving a most ludicrous appearance when it hastily moves it up and down while



BEECHEY GROUND SQUIRREL (ABOVE), AND DOUGLAS GROUND SQUIRREL

the animal scampers for cover. The call notes and alarm notes consist of a prolonged series of shrill high-pitched whistles, often so bird-like that the novice in nature lore seldom associates the notes with a mammal.

Burrows are generally made on hillsides, in heaps of rocks, near rocky eminences or close by trees or bushes which the animals can climb for a good view of their surroundings. Many times a day they mount to some such high point, where—while standing upright on their haunches and with hands hanging close against the chest—they scrutinize their surroundings. In early summer the observer often is treated to the spectacle

of seeing every member of the little Ground Squirrel family sitting-up in this manner with curiosity-bent eyes viewing the area.

On the whole these are very shy animals. When any member of a group becomes alarmed, it utters its shrill notes, and almost immediately all the squirrels in the immediate area head for cover. Such action reminds me of the behavior of Prairie Dogs under similar circumstances.

The burrow, generally excavated in loose soil, usually has a fan-shaped pile of earth in front, the size of which depends on the extensiveness of the diggings. The opening is generally about four-inches in diameter. The

tunnel may be six to 35 or more feet in length and situated 2½ to four feet underground. Some burrows are simple—such as those occupied by the males during the breeding season; others consist of numerous intercommunicating branches.

Generally there are several outlets, for these squirrels very wisely provide their homes with "safety hatches" for quick use when weasels or snakes enter the tunnels. Unlike Kangaroo Rats and Gophers, Ground Squirrels do not plug the openings of their burrows with loose earth.

I once watched a Gopher Snake go directly into a Ground Squirrel's open burrow, it evidently sensing that the animal was at home. A moment after the lithe-bodied snake disappeared, a Ground Squirrel popped out of another opening and went into new quarters some distance away, perhaps the den of another squirrel. I never saw the snake emerge, and it is possible that he found his meal in some less fortunate member of the colony.

These squirrels are insect- and seed-eaters. Using their nimble paws and mouth with great dexterity, they gather green foods or separate the seed of grasses and nuts from the chaff or hull. As a rule, these activities take place while the squirrels are picturesquely sitting upright on their haunches with tails flattened behind. This is a position of great advantage since it frees the "hands" for grasping the grass panicles and bringing the seeds to the mouth; in addition, the animal is in position to watch the approach of an enemy.

Seeds of wild oats, Indian rice and wheat grass found on high stalks are harvested by cleverly catching the stalk at the base and then "walking down" on the stem until the head of seeds is brought low enough to be taken into the paws and mouth. At times the squirrels climb into low bushes to feed. If the seeds they seek are small, they may cram several hundred into each of their bulging cheek pouches before descending to the ground and storing them in their subterranean chambers. In southern Arizona I have seen Rock Squirrels make their way up through the thick spiny basal leaves of agaves, and then with greatest ease climb up the stem and get into the plump seed-filled capsules, one or two of which provide a full meal.

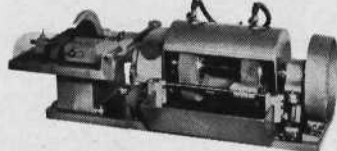
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niculatus which in some mammals is widely distributed over the body, enabling them to twitch the skin when annoyed by flies. The lining of the pouches is an extension of the same membranes that line the mouth.

If frightened while feeding in high positions or on the ground, especially at some distance from home, the Ground Squirrel ducks for cover with greatest haste, often uttering a few quick alarm notes as it descends into its burrow. Once underground, generally a long time elapses before the squirrel emerges—and then with the greatest caution. At first only the head appears, and the animal remains in this position for some time, always ready to go under cover again at the first sign of danger.

These are fair - weather animals, prone to stay in their burrows on cloudy or cold and gloomy days. They love the sun, especially early in the morning when squirrels are commonly seen on rocks basking in the warm rays. With arrival of the hottest days of summer, they go into a kind of summer sleep called estivation (ee-sti-VA-shun). In winter, some kinds of Ground Squirrels hibernate for long periods; others alternate winter sleep with periods of below-ground activity and feeding on their stored foods.

The six or eight or even 10 young are born in a nest of shredded grass leaves situated deep within the burrow and placed so that water will not enter. The young are born blind and are suckled by the mother until the baby-jaws are strong enough to chew.

These playful babes are almost wholly unaware of danger, and quite apt to fall prey—once out of the burrow—to hawks and day-roaming carnivores. Only the Ground Owls, among owls, hunt at times when young Ground Squirrels are out of their tunnels.

Enemies the adult squirrel must fear most (other than man) are the clever coyote, the badger, hawks (especially the Red-Tailed), Golden Eagles, wildcats, weasels and snakes. To the mature squirrels, owls are no particular menace since they are wholly diurnal in their habits, and most of the owls are exclusively night hunters.

One spring, ornithologists W. H. Finley and H. T. Boleman studied the growth of a family of Golden Eagles for a period of almost three months. From their observations they concluded that adults and young eagles consumed about six Ground Squirrels a day, which meant the de-



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struction of more than 500 Ground Squirrels in the 90-day period.

Two races of the very common California Ground Squirrel (*Citellus beecheyi*) inhabit arid areas of California; the subspecies *fisheri* or Fisher Ground Squirrel; and the smaller, paler subspecies *parvulus* (Latin *parvidus*: "small") or Lesser California Ground Squirrel. The former lives in much of central California, reaching the desert edge in its eastward distribution. The latter inhabits Owens Valley and the western Mojave Desert.

To the eastward, in the Providence Mountains of California, arid parts of southeastern Nevada, over much of Arizona, New Mexico, southwest Colorado and western Texas, and in Sonora and the Central Plateau of Mexico, the Variagated or Rock Squirrel (*Citellus variagatus grammurus*) dwells in rocky habitats. It is sometimes called Say's Rock Squirrel because Thomas Say first described this creature in scientific literature. This is the same Thomas Say after whom the well-known and much beloved bird of our desert, the Say Phoebe, is named.

A form of this squirrel, found on the beds of dark-colored lavas of the Tularosa Basin in New Mexico, has a darker than usual furry coat. This "matching coloration," also found in other mammals in this area, supposedly helps these creatures conceal themselves from their enemies. But, in the "rough semi-arid mesquite country along the southern areas of the Staked Plains" of Texas, lives a large Ground Squirrel that contradicts this evolutionary "rule." This creature has extensive patches of black on its back and head—despite the fact that its habitat is light-colored granitic rock. Because of this animal's dark coloration, it is very conspicuous, especially when lying out taking sun baths in the first morning hours.

Over much of the upland deserts of Nevada, southern Idaho and western Utah, live the various races of Townsend's Ground Squirrel, a rather small species. Gray Ground Squirrel and Paiute Ground Squirrel are some of the names applied to local forms. The Paiute Indians valued the flesh of these squirrels. J. K. Townsend (1809-1851) was a brilliant young traveler and ornithologist greatly admired by Bachman as well as Thomas Nuttall, and they named several birds in his honor, among them the Townsend Solitaire, Townsend Warbler and Townsend Murrelet.

On the flatter gravel- and sand-covered portions of many parts of our deserts, the larger Ground Squirrels are wholly absent, their places taken over by the small Antelope and Round-tailed species, neither of which are of any economic importance since seldom do they feed in gardens or fields. Their diet consists of small wild seeds, berries, insects and occasionally the meat of small mammals killed on the highway by passing motorists.

Several species of the Antelope Ground Squirrel are easily identified by the way they carry the flattish tail well upward and over the back, their striped sides, and general chipmunk-like appearance. Alert and lively little fellows they are, especially given to entertaining us with their prolonged quavering birdlike calls on sunny spring mornings.

The desert's Round-tailed Ground Squirrels are small, round-bodied, slender animals with exceedingly short ears, prominent black eyes, and long short-haired round tail. The creatures are fond of sandy areas and brilliant sunshine, and often appear almost white in the garish mid-morning sun. They have few of the appealing habits of their chipmunklike cousins, the Antelope Ground Squirrel. ///

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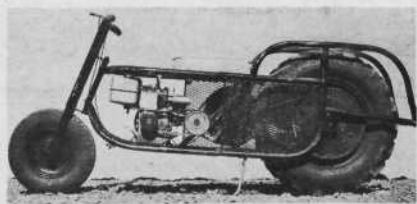
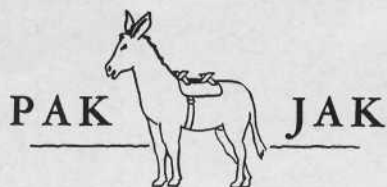
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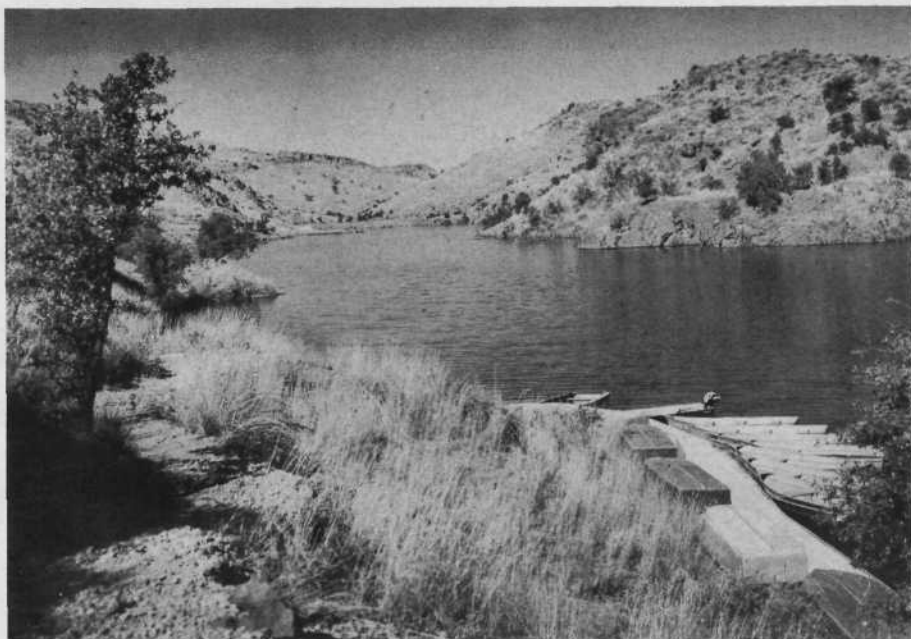
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A NOVEMBER Travel Suggestion By WELDON HEALD



PENA BLANCA LAKE, A MAN-MADE MARVEL IN SOUTHERN ARIZONA

Arízona's Newest Lake...

NATURE HAS been generous with her gifts to Arizona, but she skimped on water. There are few permanent streams, and natural lakes are almost non-existent. However, in the past half-century man has created some 350 square miles of reservoirs for irrigation, flood control, power, and recreation. They are much appreciated by Arizonans, and their popularity is rapidly increasing each year. In fact, the state has gone nautical in a big way—cars hauling all kinds of small pleasure craft on trailers streak along desert highways, and boat docks and marinas have sprung up in Phoenix, Tucson, Yuma and other cities.

Newest of these artificial water playgrounds is Pena Blanca Lake. Pronounced *pain'-ya blahn-cah*, meaning "white rock" in Spanish, it is southern Arizona's largest body of water and was created solely for outdoor recreation. Located at an altitude of 4000 feet in a section of Coronado National Forest, northeast of Nogales, the lake is an attractive, leaf-shaped sheet of blue, covering 52 acres among grassy rock-capped hills dotted with oaks and junipers. Surrounding it is the 500-acre Pena Blanca Recreation Area, which the Forest Service has developed as a center for fishing, boating, swimming, camping and picnicking. The region roundabout also offers excellent hiking and rock collecting.

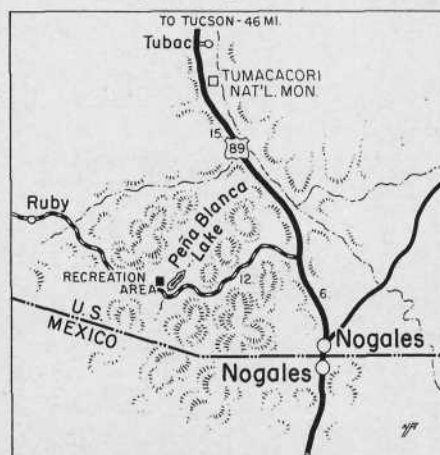
To reach this delectable man-made Arizona waterhole, you turn off U.S. 89, 61 miles south of Tucson and 6 miles north of Nogales. Here the Ruby Road winds southwest into the hills for 12 miles to the lake. Part blacktop, part graded dirt, it has some sharp turns and steep dips, but is easy to negotiate if taken slowly, and the route is regularly used by trailerites.

The road traverses a delightful country of rounded hills sheltering groves of oaks,

and twisting barrancas linked with sycamores, cottonwoods, walnuts and willows. It is in the Upper Sonoran Life Zone, just above the desert, and is prime cattle range. During the summer rainy season the grass is lush and green, and the slopes are spread with carpets of bright-colored wildflowers. You catch glimpses of the lake between the enclosing hills before you reach it, and a mile this side of the turn-off a spur, right, leads to camp- and picnic-grounds on the east shore.

The main access road circles around the upper-end of the lake, passes a natural boat-launching ramp, and climbs to a mesa on the west side. A hundred feet or so above the water, the point commands a fine view of the reservoir and the steep cliff-scarred hills surrounding it. This is the center of the Pena Blanca Recreation Area, and 12 acres are leased by the Forest Service for concessions.

Here is a pleasant glass-walled restaurant



and snack bar, overlooking the lake, which serves meals, sandwiches and soft drinks. Nearby a modern motel provides rooms at \$6 a day for the first person, \$2 for each additional, and units with kitchens, \$1 more. There is also a trailer park with 40 spaces, having light, water and sewer connections. The charges are \$2.50 per day, \$15 a week, and \$40 for a month's stay.

A path leads down to the lake, where a concrete pier and floating wooden boat dock offer some of the best boating and fishing facilities in southern Arizona. It is home port of 77 sleek aluminum and steel craft, which may be rented for \$4 a day per boat, with a \$2 minimum payment. You can also get live bait and plugs here, and fishing licenses are available. On the mesa and around the lake in shady shore-side locations are 30 picnic sites, with cement tables, grills, garbage disposals, drinking water and rest rooms, while the Forest Service maintains four free improved public campgrounds. These are Pena Blanca and Thumb Rock on the west side, and White Rock and Red Rock on the east.

With a length of almost a mile, and having 4½ miles of shoreline, the lake was created by a dam in Pena Blanca Canyon, built by the Arizona Fish and Game Department. This rock-and-earth fill structure, completed in 1956, is 70 feet high and 240 feet across at the top. The lake was dedicated in 1959 and is controlled by the Department in close cooperation with the Forest Service.

Planted with largemouth black bass, Pena Blanca waters in the past two years have drawn enthusiastic anglers from all parts of the United States and neighboring Sonora, in Mexico. Bass running 50 pounds to the acre provides good fishing, according to experts, but estimates for Pena Blanca go as high as 170 pounds per acre. This ranks Arizona's newest lake among the Southwest's top inland fishing grounds. Besides bass, these waters hold crappie and catfish. Although it is technically a warm-water lake, the Fish and Game Department planted 7000 trout in November 1959. The experiment has turned out surprisingly well, and Pena Blanca trout fishing is rated as excellent.

You needn't be a fisherman to enjoy this sequestered little-spoiled spot, four miles north of the Mexican border. Summer weather is warm, but altitude tempers the ardent Southwestern sun, and nippy winter nights are followed by clear, pleasant and exhilarating days. But, autumn is the best season, and in November many trees and shrubs put on a fine show of color. There are back-country roads to explore, mountain trails to follow, and old mining towns to visit. The vicinity is also a rockhound's delight, with jasper, moss agate, opal, chal-

cedony and desert roses. Bird watchers have a chance to add to their lifetime lists by spotting 130 different species. Wildlife is abundant, and includes mule deer, javalina or wild pig, the strange exotic coatimundi, mountain lion, coyote, gray fox, several species of doves, jackrabbits and cottontails.

All in all, southern Arizona's Pena Blanca Lake is a place where nature and man have cooperated with particularly happy results. ///

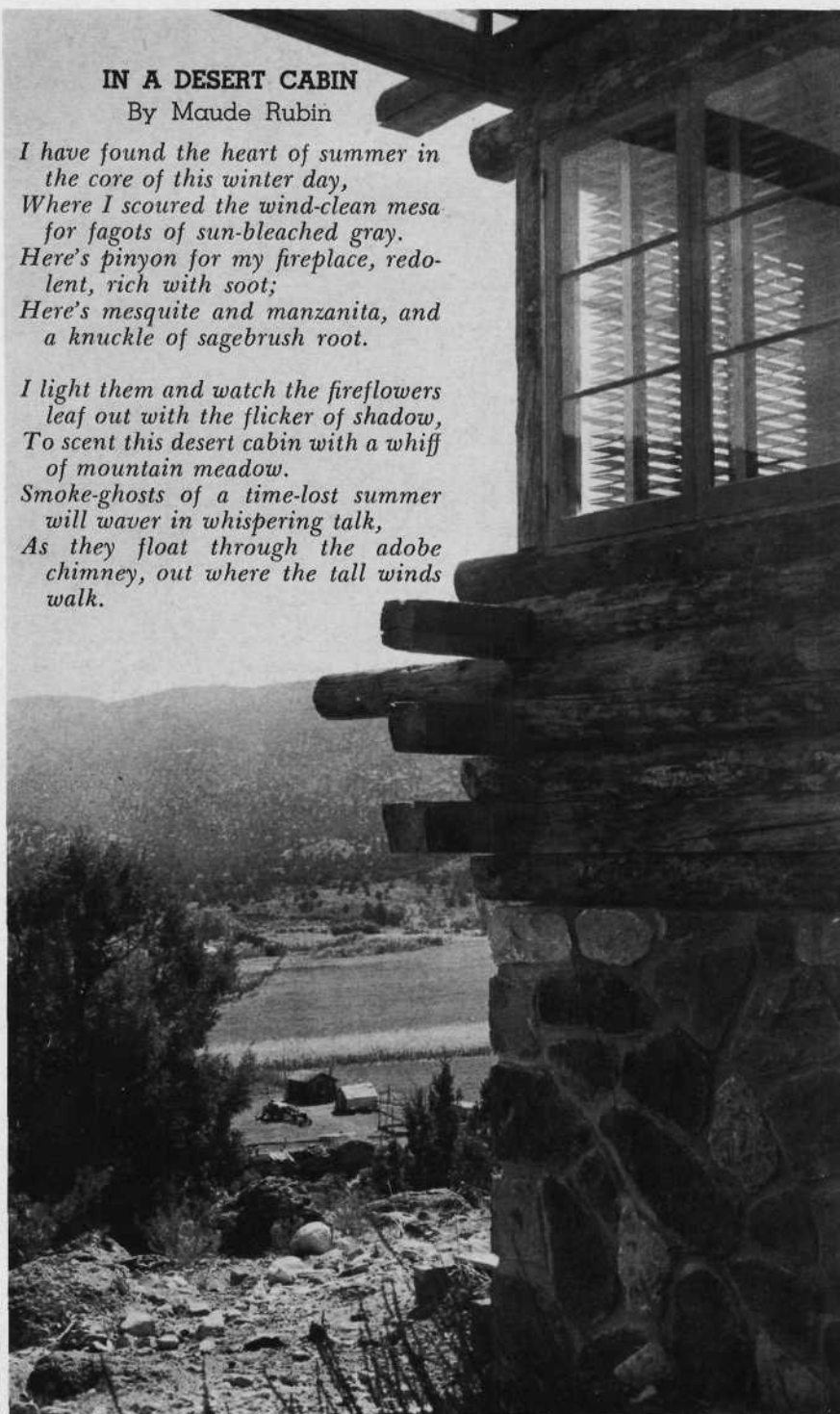
★ POEM ★ OF ★ THE ★ MONTH ★

IN A DESERT CABIN

By Maude Rubin

*I have found the heart of summer in
the core of this winter day,
Where I scoured the wind-clean mesa
for fagots of sun-bleached gray.
Here's pinyon for my fireplace, redo-
lent, rich with soot;
Here's mesquite and manzanita, and
a knuckle of sagebrush root.*

*I light them and watch the fireflowers
leaf out with the flicker of shadow,
To scent this desert cabin with a whiff
of mountain meadow.
Smoke-ghosts of a time-lost summer
will waver in whispering talk,
As they float through the adobe
chimney, out where the tall winds
walk.*



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The Album is meant to portray the Southwest between the 1860s and 1910 as it appeared to the camera lens. The cowboys of 80 years ago were considerably less glamorous than they appear on TV today. The cavalry wasn't as dashing as the movies present it. Yet the REAL face of the old Southwest, as recorded on the glass plates of yesterday, has much more interest and significance than any TV thriller can offer.

The pictures for the Photo Album came from museums, historical societies, and private collections. Compiler Charles E. Shelton viewed more than 100,000 original photographs in making a selection that he feels has nostalgic appeal for the old-timers and historic value for the younger generation.

The Album is bound in a richly scrolled padded cover, is printed on custom-milled 100-pound paper, and uses type faces that were in style 50 to 70 years ago. 200 pages. \$15 plus 25c shipping charge. (California residents also add 4% sales tax.) Published by Desert Magazine, Palm Desert, California. (See details below on how to order this book by mail.)

HOW AND WHERE TO FIND GEMSTONES AND MINERALS

To those who pursue the gem-mineral hobby, the name John Sinkankas is one that is well known. Sinkankas, a captain in the Navy, is author of two superb volumes, *Gem Cutting—A Lapidary's Manual*, and *Gemstones of North America*. These handsome books (especially the latter) are milestones in the development of the fast-growing hobby.

And now, Sinkankas' latest work, *Gemstones and Minerals*, has been released by his publisher. Subtitle: "How and Where to Find Them."

While this latest book does not rank with *Gemstones of North America* as a jewel of the publishing art, nonetheless it is an important and worthy addition to the gem-mineral bookshelf.

Gemstones and Minerals provides the practical information that the so-called "average collector" needs in order to make an intelligent search for gem-mineral treasures in the field. In the past, experience was the only teacher. Apparently, it was Sinkankas' purpose in writing this book to help cut the hobbyist's learning time.

The author provides a guide to every phase of the collecting side of the hobby—from planning field trips to digging and extraction methods. He discusses tools and equipment, and gives information on rocks and the minerals the collector can expect to find in them; descriptions of mineral deposits; outcrop signs and float; and advice on trimming, cleaning, preserving, storing, and exhibiting specimens, and the marketing of extra material.

387 pages; illustrations; tables; index; suggested reference and reading materials (and here, perhaps, is the only serious flaw

in this book: Sinkankas chooses to ignore *Desert Magazine's* role in the development of the gem-mineral hobby, especially during its post-war formative years when *Desert* articles and detailed maps led—and still lead—hundreds of hobbyists into the field); \$8.95 from Desert Magazine Book Store (see details in footnote).

A VALUABLE NEVADA GUIDE IS REPRINTED

Nevada Treasure Hunters Ghost Town Guide is nothing more nor less than a 24-page papercover booklet that reprints an 1881 fact sheet on the Silver State. But, if you have, would like, or plan to prowl the sagebrush looking for relics of the boom days; or if you have been bitten by either the Lost Mine or Ghost Town bug, this modest offering could be worth its weight in gold.

The booklet has a 16x24-inch fold-in map, vintage of 1881, that would make a handsome wall decoration. But, the glossary of 800 Nevada place names, linked to an 1867 map of the state, is the most valuable item in the book. It provides a handy reference to Nevada landmarks (including camel trails), many of which have been swallowed up by the desert.

The booklet was compiled by Theron Fox, well known prowler of Nevada's backcountry. There are some illustrations. Price is \$1.50. (See footnote.)

AN EARLY OBSERVER OF THE HOPI DANCES

As students of things Western know, picture-taking at the Hopi Summer Snake dances is taboo. Not only are cameras unwelcomed; note-taking and sketching are vigorously discouraged. The "friendly" Hopis get pretty rude with visitors who want to do more than trust their memories of the amazing spectacle of painted men dancing with live snakes in their mouths.

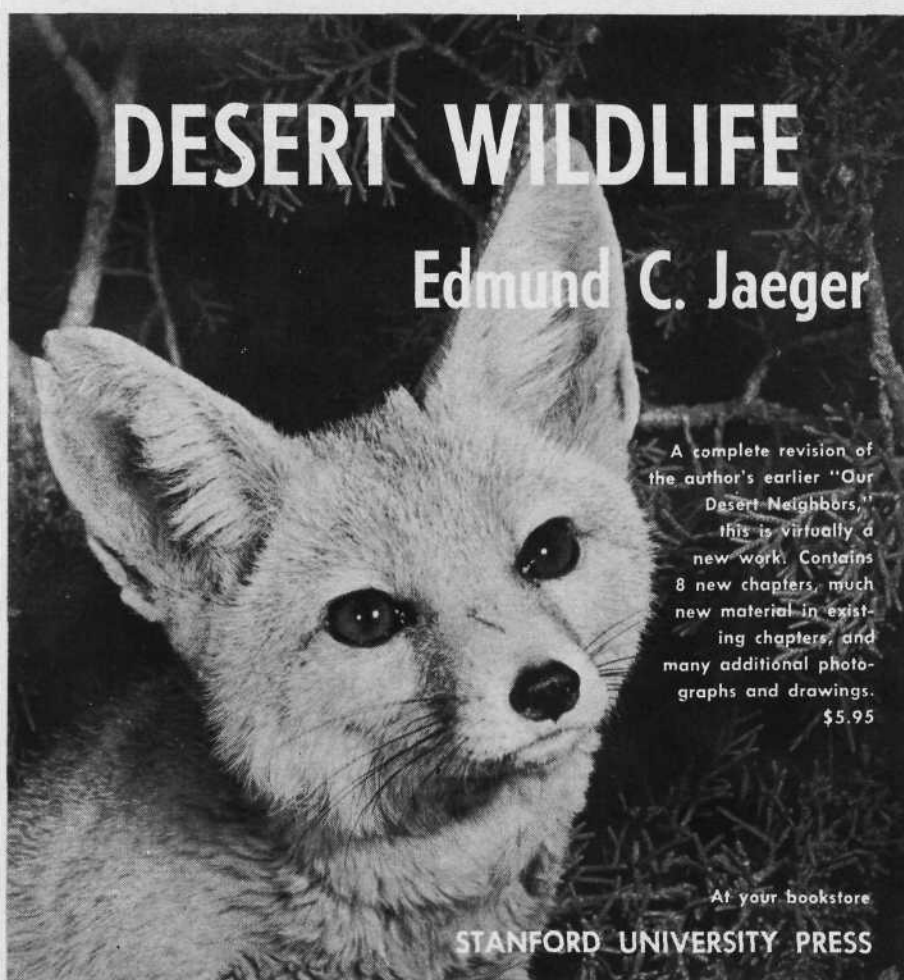
But the camera ban is only 40 or so years old. When Earle R. Forrest was a young man, he roamed the West with his "magic box," and one of his favorite subjects was the Hopi and their rituals. Forrest made hundreds of photographs; took countless notes.

His new book, *The Snake Dance of the Hopi Indians*, contains the best of these photos, and the cream of his observations. This is undoubtedly among the finest and most complete selections of Hopi Snake Dance photographs ever assembled in one book. And to add to the storehouse is the fine decorative work of illustrator Don Louis Perceval.

After his cowboy days in Arizona, Forrest returned to his native Pennsylvania and a newspaper career.

The Snake Dance of the Hopi Indians is a fine contribution to Southwestern literature. 172 pages; index; \$5.75. (See footnote.)

Books reviewed on this page can be purchased by mail from Desert Magazine Book Store, Palm Desert, California. Please add 15c for postage and handling per book. California residents also add 4% sales tax. Write for free book catalog.



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By RANDALL HENDERSON

FOR THOSE OF US who would like to see the great American heritage of scenic and recreational resources preserved for future generations, a very significant event took place last summer in the Four Corners region where Colorado, Utah, New Mexico and Arizona meet at a common point.



For many years there has been a running feud between the Forestry Service in the Department of Agriculture and the National Park Service in the Department of Interior. Forestry has resisted nearly every effort of Parks to acquire new recreational areas to keep pace with growing population. Anyone who has visited Yellowstone or Yosemite in recent years will know how critical is the need for public lands reserved and maintained for recreational

use. And yet, since 1950 less than 2000 acres have been added to the national park system.

But the outlook is brighter now. Early in July, Secretary Stewart L. Udall of Interior, and Orville L. Freeman of Agriculture, were members of a party which spent several days in the fantastic redrock and pinyon wilderness of southeastern Utah exploring the possibilities of a national park in this region. Governor Clyde of Utah was there, as were other high federal and state officials. I am indebted to Bruce Kilgore of the Sierra Club and Bert Hanna of the *Denver Post* for my report of the trek.

One evening the party was assembled around the campfire in Anderson's Bottom along the Green River—a place so remote it appears on few maps. There, Hanna reports, "was issued a joint manifesto by Freeman and Udall pledging an end once and for all to the feud over recreation policies between the U.S. Forest and Park Services."

Freeman was quoted as saying: "If national forest land is better suited to national park purposes I will not oppose its transfer to the Park Service."

Governor Clyde was not in sympathy with Udall's proposal to include a thousand square miles of this area in a national park. He took the position that it "would bottle up enormous quantities of national resources, and deprive his state of great assets." Udall, on the other hand, pointed out that "the long range economic

potential of southern Utah rests on tourism—it not only will be the best industry the state can have, but also the most stable."

Secretary Udall might have added that any mineral resources in the area would not be lost. They would still be there, available for future generations of Americans if the need ever should become critical. The idea that this generation of Americans should rush in and strip the soil of its natural wealth is a fallacy that may condemn future generations to a much lower standard of living than we enjoy today. These resources are being depleted at an accelerated rate—and cannot last forever.

* * *

Some of the newcomers to the desert are learning about blow sand. The real estate boom in Southern California's Coachella Valley has brought many owners and developers whose first thought is to bring in a bulldozer, uproot the native vegetation and pulverize the natural surface crust in the process of leveling the land.

And that is all right if water is put on the land immediately to keep it wet until buildings and landscape plantings are in place. But if weeks or months ensue before this is done, the winds promptly fill the air with real estate.

We've had abnormally strong winds during the last six months. Following one of these storms I visited a real estate subdivision where scores of new homes were under construction. Newly formed dunes were piled high around the houses, and where doors and windows had not been installed there were drifts on the floors inside.

The tragedy of this situation is that there are so many innocent victims. One section of newly leveled land will cause havoc for miles on the windward side when 30- and 40-mile winds are blowing. I saw a two-foot drift on a newly planted lawn—sand that came from another site a half mile away.

I saw the same thing happen in El Centro in 1908 when the Imperial Valley was being reclaimed. Today, El Centro suffers little from blow sand because the entire area has been put under cultivation.

My sympathy goes out to these victims of blow sand—and any old-timer could have warned against these hazards—but it just seems that each generation of humans must learn its lessons the hard way.

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HOW AND Where to Pan Gold, just published, 72 pages, photos, drawings, plus maps of 19 states, with gold placer areas marked, \$2. Lost Treasure Trails, by Penfield, a fine big book, is back in print after a long absence, \$3. Foul Anchor Archives, D.M., Rye, N. Y.

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JUST PUBLISHED, "Ghost Town Bottles of the Old West," 31 page booklet, 100 bottles pictured, plus price guide, \$1.75 postpaid. Wes Bressie, 2344 Meadows Lane, Medford, Ore.

GEM HUNTERS Atlas. Three map books that really show where to find gemstone. Each book has 32 full-page maps with gem areas spotted in color. Type of material, mileages and all highways are shown. Many new features and locations have been added to these later editions. Northwest \$1. California-Nevada \$1. Southwest \$1. Postpaid. Scenic Guides, Box 288, Susanville, California.

HUNTING FOR treasure? Treasure hunter, Frank L. Fish, tells you how and where to find it in his new book—"Buried Treasure and Lost Mines," just off the press. 93 bonafide treasure locations, 20 photos and illustrations, 68 pages including vicinity maps, ghost towns and old mines. A must for the treasure hunter. \$1.50 per copy postpaid. Large treasure map, 19x24, beautiful four color, pinpoints treasure locations described in above book. \$1.50 each postpaid. Send check or money order to: Amador Trading Post Publishing Co., L. Erie Schaefer, 14728 Peyton Drive, Chino, Calif.

DESERT MAGAZINES—complete set, 1937 through 1960. Sacrifice for \$69, price of binders alone. Armour Huntsman, 7303 West Point, La Mesa, California.

NEW MEXICO Gem Trails: Another fine field guide by Bessie W. Simpson, the author of Gem Trails of Texas. Tells you all about the new locations for collecting, rocks, gems, minerals, fossils and Indian artifacts. Over 60 maps and pictures, more than 65 well described locations. It's new, just out in April. Get your copy from your favorite dealer or hobby magazine, or order direct, \$2.50 postpaid. Dealers write for discount. Gem Trails Publishing Co., Granbury, Texas.

SPEAK SPANISH by comparing it with English. New booklet explains how. Prepaid 50c. Spanish by Comparison, Box 5313, El Paso, Texas.

HOW AND Where to Pan Gold, 72 pages, many illustrations, 19 maps and placer areas. Everything you need to know on the subject. \$2 from Nugget, Dept. DM, Box 462, Tucson, Ariz.

• EQUIPMENT-SUPPLIES

LIGHTWEIGHT CAMPING and mountaineering equipment. The World's finest; used on Everest, Himalayas, Andes, etc. For free catalog, write: Gerry, Dept. 107, Box 910, Boulder, Colorado.

TOX SELF illuminating pocket magnifier. Examine specimens anywhere anytime. A magnifying glass with its own built-in light. \$3 postpaid. Emerald Distributors, Dept. A, Oakridge, Ore.

FINEST TRANSITOR metal locators, \$34.95 up. Informative folder, "Metal Locating Kinks" 25c. IGWTD, Williamsburg, New Mexico.

MICROSCOPES AND telescopes for professionals and hobbyists. Accessories. Write for price list. Peninsula Scientific, 2421 El Camino Real, Palo Alto, California.

DIAMOND COMPOUND kit—economical, makes sapphire, ruby, jade easy to polish. Two 3" maple laps, hypo-gun each 1200-8000 grits, instructions, \$10 postpaid. Free list. Jack Schuller, Box 28, Park Ridge 7, Illinois.

FLUORESCENT DISPLAYS, gold panning, black lights, rocks and minerals, jewelry and supplies. Pollard's Rock Shop, 12719 Laurel Street, Lakeside, California.

LAKE SUPERIOR agates, from bottom of Mississippi River, five polished, postpaid, \$1. New type tumbler, rough tumble and polish same time, no changing belts or pulleys, \$35.50 with your motor, belt and pulleys. For super polish on your stones try the new Cob Grit, five pound trial bag \$1.50. Rubber-lined gallon cans with super-seal lids \$3.75. Include sufficient postage. Free literature. Reid's Lapidary Supplies, Box 131, Stockton, Illinois.

NEW—FLUORESCENT mineral detector that detects boron, fluorine, lithium, molybdenum, strontium, tungsten, uranium, zinc, zirconium and other minerals. Cigarette pack size, daylight operation, requires no batteries. Price \$12.50. Free brochure. Essington Products & Engineering, Box 4174, Coronado Station, Santa Fe, New Mexico.

WORLD'S SMALLEST power generator, 200 watts, 110 volts, AC, or switch to battery charger. Factory to you \$100. Includes engine, generator, frame, belt, etc. Shipping weight 28 pounds. Larger models available. Krestronics Corporation, 140 Sheldon Street, El Segundo, California.

• FOR WOMEN

LADY GODIVA "The World's Finest Beautifier." Your whole beauty treatment in one jar. Write: Lola Barnes, 963 North Oakland, Pasadena 6, California.

• GEMS, CUT - POLISHED

NEW FIND lavender star sapphires from Montana, \$2.50 ounce. Blue covellite, Montana minerals, crystals. Postage please. Brant's Rock Shop, Box 65, Silver Star, Montana.

TINY ARROWHEADS made of Australian fire opal, described in Lapidary Journal, page 132, April issue. Nice for your collection, surely different. \$1.25 each, five for \$5. Rogers Rocks-Minerals, P.O. Box 411, Norwalk, California.

OPALS AND sapphires direct from Australia. This month's best buy: Rough emeralds, fine cabochon material, deep color, 2 carat to 25 carat pieces. Two qualities, \$15 and \$45 per oz., sent airmail. Send personal check, international money order, bank draft. Free 16 page list of all Australian gemstones. Australian Gem Trading Co., 294 Little Collins St., Melbourne C.I., Australia.

HINEGARDNERS' HAVE a large selection of fine minerals including fluorescents, cutting, faceting; supplies for gem grinding, tumbling; gifts, jewelry that are beautiful and different; hand spinning supplies. Nine miles east of Mesa, Arizona, Highways 60, 70.

TEN POUNDS of beautiful Colorado specimens, \$8 postpaid. Jack the Round Hound, Carbondale, Colorado.

FOR SALE: Superior agates from Minnesota, 1/2 to 1 inch, \$1 pound, ¾ to 2 1/2 inch banded \$2.50 pound, blue chalcedony \$2 pound, tumble polished Superior \$3.50 pound, plus postage. Frank Engstrom, Grey Eagle, Minn.

MORE CLASSIFIEDS ▶

TRADING POST

CLASSIFIEDS

Continued from preceding page

ILLINOIS: KQUWitschuerbellerachen. We've got it. Just about everything for the rock hounds. Rocks and makings, findings, jewelry, and the extras. You are invited! Come early, stay late! Come see first, what you buy, avoid disappointment. We'll show you how it's done, made. For example, 10 pounds optical quartz \$12.95 postpaid. 3 pounds cerium oxide (90%) \$6.82 postpaid. Tumbling quartz amethyst 3 pounds \$6.65. Cabochon quality (some for faceting) 3 pounds \$11.90. List not issued, always open. See what you buy. Heike's Lapidary, Wenona, Illinois.

● GEMS, DEALERS

DESERT ROCKS, woods, jewelry. Residence rear of shop. Rockhounds welcome. Mile west on U.S. 66. McShan's Gem Shop and Desert Museum. P.O. Box 22, Needles, California.

RIVERSIDE CALIFORNIA. We have everything for the rock hound, pebble pups, interesting gifts for those who are not rock hounds. Minerals, slabs, rough materials, lapidary supplies, mountings, equipment, black lights. Why not stop and browse? Shamrock Rock Shop, 593 West La Cadena Drive, Riverside, Calif. Overland 6-3956.

GEM DEALERS, gift store owners: write for free brochure on ready-made, superior-polish jewelry and popular, fast-selling baroque. Empire Gems by Roy, Box 133, Trinidad, Calif.

CHOICE MINERAL specimens, gems, cutting material, machinery, lapidary and jeweler's supplies, mountings, fluorescent lamps, books. Sumner's, 21108 Devonshire, Chatsworth, Cal.

● GEMS, MINERALS - FOSSILS

FOUR NATURAL staurolites, cross on both sides, for \$1 postpaid. "Animals" assembled from uncut quartz crystals — "Rockhound," \$1.25 each. Five assorted animals, \$5.50 postpaid. Reasoner Rock Originals, Crown King Highway, Bumble Bee, Arizona.

FINE DOMESTIC and foreign crystals and massive minerals. Please ask for free list. Continental Minerals, P.O. Box 1206, Anaconda, Montana.

FOSSILS. 12 different for \$2. Other prices on request. Will buy, sell or trade. Museum of Fossils. Clifford H. Earl, P. O. Box 188, Sedona, Arizona.

CALIFORNIA GEM materials, crystals, fossils, minerals. Good selection to choose from. Custom sawing by the inch. Award Ornamental Iron and Welding, 971 E. Barbour, Banning, California.

HUEBNERITE, SILVERTON area; coquimbite, Utah; wavellite, Arkansas; realgar crystals, Nevada; all select specimens. Hundreds of other rare good pieces. Write: The Coloradoan, Gem Village, Bayfield, Colorado.

CRYSTALIZED GOLD, rare lode pocket specimens. Many intrinsic patterns, attractively displayed, \$2 postpaid, guaranteed. Lester Lea, Box 942-D, Mount Shasta, California.

TRIOBITES—12 for \$3. Impressions 75c each. Agnostia 20c each. Brachiopods 50c dozen. Desert rose agates 12 for \$1. Lynn Hutchings, 61 South 2nd West, American Fork, Utah.

COLORFUL ARIZONA petrified wood or Apache tears, 10 pounds \$7.50 prepaid. You may combine five pounds each material. Southwest Rocks & Minerals, Parks, Arizona.

ALASKA GOLD nuggets, selected for beauty, 14c per troy grain. 10 to 200 grains. Definite sources given. Full refund if customer not pleased. Frank H. Waskey, Olney, Maryland.

ROCK COLLECTORS—attention! (Kids only), for \$1.50, \$3.50, \$5., \$7.50, I will send prepaid: rock, mineral, fossil surprise packages, labels and localities. Big assortment, small sizes. The Rockologist, Box 181, Cathedral City, Calif.

● GEMS, ROUGH MATERIAL

COLORFUL AUSTRALIAN fire opal; rough or cut. No deposit. Approvals sent on request. See before you buy. Free list. Write: Walker "Opals Exclusively", 20385 Stanton Ave., Castro Valley, California.

OPALS! MEXICAN fire opal specimens in matrix, 6 for \$1 postpaid. Rock Park, 5050 East Van Buren, Phoenix 8, Arizona.

REDS, MOTTLED, lace. A new find. Jasp-agate. 100 pounds prepaid, \$22.50. Morton Minerals & Mining, 21423 (old) Hwy. 66, RFD 1, Barstow, California.

GOLD SPECIAL: Arizona gold on quartz or gold on hematite. Also magnetic lodestone \$1 each, all three \$2 prepaid. Money back guarantee. Southwest Rocks & Minerals, Parks, Arizona.

OPALIZED WOOD, small limb and root sections, colorful, unique specimens, cut off ends on trim saw and polish, \$1.50 per pound, plus postage please. Joseph S. Gentzler, Box 1292, Santa Ana, Calif.

DOWSE'S AGATE Shop offers fine black jade \$3.50 pound, pink thulite jade \$3.50 pound, turritella agate highly agatized, cuts fine cabochons 50c pound, Utah green mountain aventurine quartz, cuts solid green-blue cabochons, fine material, 60c pound, pigeon blood agate, Utah, very fine material for outstanding cabochons \$1 pound, crystal lined geodes 75c pound, Utah thunderegg, small to large \$1 pound. 754 North 2nd West, Salt Lake City, Utah.

PLASMA \$1 pound, Wonder stone 75c pound, dinosaur bone, best grade \$4 pound, Hanks-ville and Henry Mountain wood 50c pound. Postage extra. Satisfaction or money back. Inquiries invited. Gene Stephen, Route 5, Grand Junction, Colorado.

"CHRISTMAS TREE" selenite crystal, with new list of gems and minerals, 25c. Fine materials for the lapidary and collector, all guaranteed. The Vellor Co., P.O. Box 2344, St. Louis 14, Missouri.

● INDIAN GOODS

THREE FINE prehistoric Indian war arrowheads \$1. Flint scalping knife \$1. Rare flint thunderbird \$3. All \$4. Catalog free. Arrowhead, Glenwood, Arkansas.

INDIAN PHONOGRAPH records, authentic songs and dances, all speeds. Write for latest list: Canyon Records, 834 No. 7th Avenue, Phoenix, 1, Arizona.

HAVE INDIAN artifacts, rough and tumbled gemstones—will trade. Napier, 17238 Harvard, Hayward, California.

LARGE CEREMONIAL tom-toms, up to 36-inch diameter, sides covered with buffalo hide with hair on. Painted designs on head. Indian crafts and artifacts. Thunderbird Trading Post, Highway 80, P.O. Millsap, Texas.

WE APPRAISE, buy, sell finest reservation-made Indian goods. Send \$1 for genuine turquoise nugget, fine quality key chain, 16-page catalog of Indian handicrafts, history of Southwestern Indian jewelry, story of Navajo rugs, other information. The Indian Room, 1440 South Coast Highway, Laguna Beach, California.

AUTHENTIC INDIAN jewelry, Navajo rugs, Chimayo blankets, squaw boots. Collector's items. Closed Tuesdays. Pow-Wow Indian Trading Post, 19967 Ventura Blvd., East Woodland Hills, Calif. Open Sundays.

FINE RESERVATION-MADE Navajo, Zuni, Hopi jewelry. Old pawn. Many fine old baskets, moderately priced, in excellent condition. Navajo rugs, Yei blankets, Chimayo homespun, pottery. A collector's paradise! Open daily 10 to 5:30, closed Mondays. Buffalo Trading Post, Highway 18, Apple Valley, California.

SELLING 20,000 Indian relics. 100 nice ancient arrowheads \$25. Indian skull \$25. List free. Lear's, Glenwood, Arkansas.

AMERICAN INDIAN color slides. Superb museum specimens covering archeology and ethnology of Western Hemisphere. Excellent for teachers, artists, collectors. Free list. American Indian Museum, Broadway and 155th, New York 32.

ARROWHEADS, PREHISTORIC or modern, or make your own. Black obsidian slabs 25 square inches ready to work on, or 10 pounds of chunks, complete simple instructions like the Indians used to make them, \$5.50 prepaid. Southwest Rocks & Minerals, Parks, Arizona.

ANCIENT INDIAN relics, includes Aztec and Mayan, all kinds, rarities, large list. Richard Kotil, 7500-L Southwest 16th Street, Miami, Fla.

PINE VALLEY Indian Trading Post offers for sale its large collection of old Indian baskets. Highway 80, Pine Valley, California.

6 ARROWHEADS, 10 warpoints, 4 birdpoints, 2 spearheads — \$5. Have beads, beadwork, masks, fetishes, prehistoric pottery. Paul Summers, Canyon, Texas.

IF YOU are looking for prehistoric or historic Southwest material; for a certain Indian painter, a good rug, jewelry—anything unusual, why don't you write? House of Six Directions, Fifth Avenue, Scottsdale, Arizona.

INDIAN ARTIFACTS Catalog No. 12; 28 pages, 857 illustrations, B.C. to early A.D. with histories. Arrowheads, wampum, charmstones, etc. Send \$1 for catalog, will credit on first \$5 order. H. W. Worcester, 1229-B University Avenue, Berkeley 2, California.

ARROWHEAD COLLECTION: 15 mounted frames 21x31" containing over 2500 authentic, outstanding artifacts, comprising blades, spears, knives and arrowheads. 90% obsidian. Surface finds from northwestern states. Museum material. \$5000. Will deliver 1000 miles. If interested write for complete information. H. M. Worcester, 1229 B University Avenue, Berkeley 2, California.

SELLING LARGE collections of Indian relics. Giant photo-illustrated catalog 25c (refundable). Indian Relic Gallery, 8 Helene Avenue, Merrick 15, New York.

ANCIENT ARROWHEADS from Mexico. Picked up around old ruins. Rarely obtainable. Many white birdpoints. \$3 dozen, \$6 dozen, \$9 dozen, as to quality, antiquity. Satisfaction guaranteed. Blackhawk, Umatilla 3, Oregon.

THREE JASPER arrowheads \$2. Six gem material arrowheads \$5. Bone awl, birdpoint, drill, \$2. Cherokee, 1513 Ohio, McKeesport, Pa.

● JEWELRY

GENUINE TURQUOISE bolo ties \$1.50, 11 stone turquoise bracelet \$2. Gem quality golden tiger-eye \$1.75 pound, beautiful mixed agate baroques \$3 pound. Postage and tax extra. Tubby's Rock Shop, 2420 1/2 Honolulu Ave., Montrose, California.

DEALERS! Write for wholesale prices on our fabulous line of non-tarnishing aluminum chains and baroque mountings. Include \$1 for samples. Use letterhead or send tax number. R. B. Berry & Company, 5040B Corby Street, Omaha 4, Nebraska.

SIX BEAUTIFUL buttons matching earrings \$1.50; embedded with crystal rock, gold sea-horse, leaf, rosebuds, cut shells, cameos, fish, pheasants, star-fish. All colors. Glow bola ties \$1.25. Key chains \$1. Any choice above. Claytons, 9 West Cornelio, San Clemente, Cal.

SPECIAL GET acquainted mail order offer: your choice of Apache Tear or sun-colored desert glass double stone earrings, high polish, very attractive, nice for gifts. \$2.40 value for \$1. Also special, small vial mercury \$1. A collector's item, usually hard to obtain. Postage and tax included. The Churchills, 118 South Main, Bishop, California.

BEAUTIFUL SMALL arrowheads made of gold-stone, imported from Italy, nice for ear-drops, tie tacks or collections, certainly different, 2 for \$1. Rogers Rocks-Minerals, P.O. Box 411, Norwalk, California..

● LODGES, MOTELS

ROCK HOUND headquarters: Moqui Motel, Escalante, Utah—on Highway U. 54, phone MARKET 4-4210, Dyna and Mohr Christensen. Pack and Jeep Trips by appointment.

CHINOOK, ROCKHOUND, fisherman and hunter's paradise, cabins with kitchenettes and wood-burning fireplaces. Groceries, fishing tackle, Texaco gas, rock-cutting material, guide service, Continental bus depot, etc. Marge and George DuBois, Highway 160, South Fork, Colorado. Phone Olive 7-3771.

ROCKHOUND HEADQUARTERS: Calico Motel, Highway 91-446 & Calico Road. Phone Clinton 6-3467. P.O. Box 6105, Yermo, California. Brochure on request.

● MAPS

SECTIONIZED COUNTY maps — San Bernardino \$3; Riverside \$1; Imperial, small \$1, large \$2; San Diego \$1.25; Inyo \$2.50; Kern \$1.25; other California counties \$1.25 each. Nevada counties \$1 each. Include 4 percent sales tax. Topographic maps of all mapped western areas. Westwide Maps Co., 114 West Third Street, Los Angeles 13, California.

TRAILS TO Treasures locates and tells stories of lost mines and treasure spots of Southwest in gorgeous full color 23"x34" authentic guide, decor item, conversation piece. \$2 plus 8c tax in California. Treasurama, 3969 Goodland Avenue, North Hollywood, California. Money back if not pleased.

● MINING

ASSAYS. COMPLETE, accurate, guaranteed. Highest quality spectrographic. Only \$8 per sample. Reed Engineering, 620-R So. Inglewood Ave., Inglewood, California.

\$1 FOR gold areas, 25 California counties. Geology, elevations. Pans \$3, \$2.50. Poke \$1. Fred Mark, Box 801, Ojai, California.

PLATINUM ORE samples, good grade, hen-egg size or larger, \$8. No stamps. Henderson, 690 North 3rd Street, Brawley, California.

GOLD: HOW to find it, claim it, and grow rich. Send only \$1 to RA, KJ, Box 642, Needles, California.

ASSAYS: ALL types, \$5. Spectographs \$12. Classes: Assaying, prospecting and mineralogy, 12 hours, \$15. Kilian Bensusan (Mining Engineer), 8615 Columbus Avenue, Sepulveda, California. EMpire 2-1942.

NATURAL PLACER gold, cleaned mine run, 960 fine, \$42 troy ounce. Satisfaction guaranteed. Cashier's check or money order, Marcum Bienenberg, Avon, Montana.

● OLD COINS, STAMPS

RARE UNCIRCULATED Carson City mint dollars, 1878, \$5. 1882-83-84-90-91, \$10 each. 100-page catalog 50c. Shultz, P.O. Box 746, Salt Lake City 10, Utah.

STAMP COLLECTIONS wanted: U.S. or foreign envelopes with stamps. Before 1880, Indian head pennies. Jack Leese, 1520-D, Grand Central Station, New York City.

BOOKS, COINS, stamps wanted. Cash paid. Send quarter for marvelous lists. Books found. No obligation. Williams, Box 673, Hoboken, New Jersey.

● PHOTO SUPPLIES

COLOR SLIDES: Railroad, ghost town, scenic southwest, California missions, Calico, Marineland. Sample and list 25c. Longstreet, 6977 Sunnyside, Hollywood 28, California.

USE OUR mail service for fine custom black and white and color film processing and printing. We sell, buy and trade cameras. Write for our free bargain sheet. (Since 1932.) Morgan Camera Shop. 6262 Sunset Blvd., Hollywood 28, California.

35 mm. COLOR slides of Western artist Clyde Forsythe's great "Gold Strike" paintings. Four exciting slides: "Gold Rush," "Mining Camp," "Mining Town," "Ghost Town." Rise and fall of a typical boom town. Set of four slides mailed to you for \$1. Order from Desert Magazine Book Store, Palm Desert, Calif.

● PLANTS, SEEDS

WILDFLOWER SEEDS: New 1962 expanded Wildflower Catalog is being printed. Same quality, same price, 50c. Clyde Robin, P.O. Box 2091, Castro Valley, California.

● REAL ESTATE

80 ACRES in fast growing Coachella Valley. Frontage on both Highway 99 and paved cross street. Water, electricity, warm area suitable for citrus, grapes, etc. Will trade for top quality income property in Los Angeles area. Write: Don Bleitz, 1001 N. McCadden Place, Los Angeles 38.

HOOT GIBSON ranches, 2 1/2 and 20 acre parcels sold as low as \$10 down and \$10 monthly; has underground water for development, deep fertile, level, rock-free soil. Huge commercial farms nearby, raising second best cotton in U.S. Near West's most famous playground: Las Vegas and Lake Mead, with Mt. Charleston's winter sports activities. Wonderful investment for future while you play now. Located south end Pahrump Valley, California. Large airport on ranch, with fly-in ranches also available. Brokers invited to participate. Hidden Hills Ranch Development, 1531 Diamond Ave., South Pasadena, California. Phone Clinton 7-0818. Send now for colorful brochure.

FORTY ACRE Coachella Valley ranch for sale, 18 acres seven-year-old Thompson grapes, 20 acres four-year-old grapefruit. Three bedroom ranch house, one duplex two bedrooms each. Asking price \$112,000. Other ranch and commercial investments, also homes, available. Jorgensen Realty Branch Office, P.O. Box 965, Fireside 6-8389, Palm Desert, California.

FOR SALE: bare land, 160 view acres located in Martinez Canyon overlooking Coachella Valley and the Salton Sea. Booming area, excellent location for exclusive dude ranch or canyon housing project. Reasonable. Write Cotton, 361 North Fifth Street, Coalinga, California.

FOR SALE: Five acres with Government-Approved Cabin near Twentynine Palms, California, within view of the Marine Base and the community of Twentynine Palms. Ideal for weekend seclusion and/or investment. Must sell—\$1900. Write for terms. Mel Harrison, P. O. Box 997, Palm Desert, California.

FOR INFORMATION on desert acreage and parcels for sale in or near Twentynine Palms, please write Silas S. Stanley, Realtor, 73644 Twentynine Palms Highway, Twentynine Palms, California.

110 ACRES for sale in Coachella Valley, only three miles from city of Coachella. Sacrifice at \$100 per acre. Write: Don Bleitz, 1001 N. McCadden Place, Los Angeles 38, California.

FOR SALE: small cabin, five acres above Palm Desert, behind Silver Spur Trailer Park. Burns, 4918 Pacifica Drive, San Diego 9, California.

FOR SALE, Lake Isabella view lot near market and main highway. Terms \$25 monthly. Meyer, 1518 Darby, Pomona, Calif.

SALTON CITY, R-1, lot 84x154 feet, cash \$700. Contract \$2700. Bertha Wade, 553 West Ralston Street, Ontario, California.

LIQUIDATING 2 1/2 acre subdivided parcels in Adelanto, two hours from Los Angeles, through title company. \$50 down, \$25 month, \$1995 less liquidation discount. Buy before Feather River expansion. Box 8062, Los Angeles 8. AX 19188.

● WESTERN MERCHANDISE

FREE "DO-IT-YOURSELF" Leathercraft catalog. Tandy Leather Company, Box 791-Y-40, Fort Worth, Texas.

GHOST TOWN items: Sun-colored glass, amethyst to royal purple; ghost railroads materials, tickets; limited odd items from camps of the '60s. Write your interest—Box 64-D, Smith, Nevada.

WELCOME! LET us shade your problem lamp with translucent material. Desert novelties, stationery, gifts. Closed Thursdays. Cubit's on the Highway, 51329 East Morongo Valley, California.

DESERT RELICS, glass, mining, Indian, books and local gem stone. Send 25c for our catalog of over 1000 items. Visit us in the ghost town of Garlock between highways 6 and 395 west of Randsburg. Roberta's, Box C, Randsburg, California.

SIXTY-FIVE OLD guns, 1000 arrowheads, axes, thunderbirds, etc. General antiques on close-out sale November 11-19, also sale on our raw, thick honeys, natural dates, sun-dried fruits, nuts. See our museum corner. Smoked turkey sandwiches, date shakes. Open daily. Worth a drive. Tontz Country Store, Highway 71, Elsinore, California. Free—new 56-page catalog of luscious, natural foods.

MORE CLASSIFIEDS ▶

SOUTHWEST CALENDAR

Nov. 3-5: Imperial Gem and Mineral Show, De Anza Hotel, Calexico, Calif.

Nov. 3-12: Arizona State Fair, Phoenix.

Nov. 4-5: L.E.R.C. Rockcrafters' 6th Annual Show, 2814 Empire Avenue, Burbank.

Nov. 4-5: Annual Gem Show of San Diego Lapidary Society, 1648 30th St., San Diego.

Nov. 4-5: NOTS Rockhounds' 5th Annual Gem and Mineral Show, Community Center, U.S. Naval Ordnance Test Station, China Lake, Calif.

Nov. 4-5 (Tentative date): National Limited Hydroplane Races, Lake Mead, Nev.

Nov. 7-12: Annual Rockhound Club Roundup, Old Highway 66, 11 miles west of Barstow, Calif.

Nov. 9-12: Death Valley '49er Encampment. See page 8.

Nov. 9-19: 43rd Annual Golden Spike National Livestock Show, Ogden, Utah.

Nov. 10-14: Remudaro Ride, Wickenburg, Ariz.

Nov. 11-12: Annual Weed Show at Oasis School Auditorium; also First Annual Gem and Mineral Show, Twentynine Palms, Calif.

Nov. 23: Annual Christmas Season Children's Day Parade, Ely, Nev.

Nov. 23: Desert Sun Rancher's Rodeo, Wickenburg.

Nov. 26-27: Junior "Parada," Florence, Ariz.



SUN COLORED glass for sale. Mrs. A. E. Wyckoff, 11501 Davenport Road, Agua Dulce, Cal.

● MISCELLANEOUS

LEARN OIL painting. New correspondence courses for amateur and advanced students. Personal forty point critique of each painting. Walker School of Art, Box 486, Montrose, Colo.

SOUR DOUGH biscuit recipe and full directions \$1. Dutchoven or modern baking. Revive the lost art. Franks Murdock, Dalhart, Texas.

MAKE AND sell patented fish lure to dealers. New hot item. All territories open. Snapon, 422 North Glenoaks, Burbank, California.

EXQUISITE FURS direct from my mountain trapline; fashioned by expert New York furrier. Beaver, muskrat stoles, \$185. Mink scarves, \$60 up. Beaver rugs, \$29.50. 50% down, balance on delivery. You won't be disappointed with quality. Taking orders now. Dick Sherman, Umatilla 3, Oregon.

ULTRAVIOLET LAMPS from \$10.50. Kits, filters, tubes, accessories. America's most complete line. Free literature. Radiant Ultra Violet Products, Cambria Heights 11, New York.

FOR SALE: 100 wagon and buggy wheels in good average condition, various sizes, asking \$10 each. George Smith, Stanford, Montana.

LETTERS FROM OUR READERS

Sans 20-Mule Team . . .

To the Editor: After reading the write-up in the September issue on the 20-Mule Team parade at Boron, Calif., we decided to look over the team and take some colored slides.

So we stopped at Boron, and there we learned that this year's celebration would not have the team, as it is too much to train the animals. I told some people in Boron I would write to you and tell you what I think of you, and they seconded the motion. So you see, you are not in good standing.

I was very much disappointed. I was counting on taking some close-up pictures of the team.

PAUL ROOKHUYZEN
San Jose, Calif.

(Our apologies to reader-photographer Rookhuyzen, and we plead guilty to an error of omission. While our Boron report did not specify that a live team would be part of the festivities; neither did it state flatly that Boron manages an annual 20-Mule Team Days celebration without benefit of 20-Mule Team.—Ed.)

Away From the Turmoil . . .

To the Editor: Yours is a beautiful magazine. Its contents often take one far away from the turmoil of the world, and into an uncluttered land of quiet and restful beauty.

GENEVIEVE D. TAYLOR
Long Beach, Calif.

PHOTO and ART credits

(Unless otherwise specified below or in text, photographs and art work are by authors of features in which they appear.)

PAGE 7: Map by Norton Allen. **8:** Staff. **9:** Staff photo; Map by Norton Allen. **14:** Ralph Cornell photos; Map by Norton Allen. **15:** Charles W. Herbert. **20:** D. E. Merkel. **22:** Nevada Historical Society. **23:** (top) Burr Belden Collection. **32:** Calif. State Dept. Agriculture. **35:** Map by Norton Allen.

Mountains by any Other Name . . .

To the Editor: In the story, "Dean of the Mining Camp Journalists" (September *Desert*), the author speaks of the "Sierra Nevadas" (Page 27), and on the following pages mentions "the Sierras."

Please be advised that in California there is only one Sierra Nevada and thus there is no justification for the use of the plural form of the name. Any good dictionary will define *Sierra* as "a range of lofty, sawtooth mountains;" and *Nevada* as "snow covered or snowy."

WILLIAM H. NELSON
Berkeley, Calif.

(The dictionary also tells us that when "sierra" is capitalized and used in the plural—Sierras—it refers to a specific mountain chain. Thus, when the author, having earlier established the fact that the mountains in question were the Sierra Nevadas, makes reference to "the Sierras," he is indeed referring to a specific range in eastern California—Ed.)

The Right Market . . .

To the Editor: Detractors aside, let's have more articles on four-wheel-drive vehicle road tests. Your readers are the people who are interested in these wonderful machines.

WARREN HUNT
Lynwood, Calif.

TRUE OR FALSE ANSWERS

Questions are on page 9

1. True. 2. True. 3. True.
4. False. The Spaniards introduced horses and burros to the New World.
5. False. California became a part of the U.S. in 1848; the Jayhawkers came West the following year.
6. False.
7. False. The paloverde blossoms in May; smoke tree in July.
8. True. 9. True.
10. False. Tonopah came before Goldfield.
11. True. 12. True. 13. False.
14. False. Tortoise dig their own holes.
15. False. Charleston is visible from Las Vegas.
16. True. 17. False. 18. True.
19. True. 20. True.

DUPLICATE COUPON. See ad on back cover.

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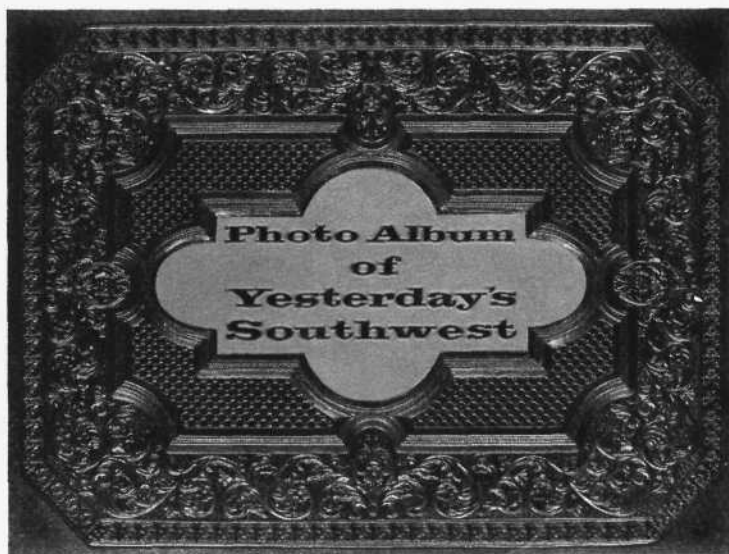
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| Speed | Top Speed Approx. 12½ m.p.h. | Top Speed 25 m.p.h. (45 m.p.h. with touring sprocket) |
| Climbing Ability | Up to 45° slope | 45° slope or more |
| Load Capacity | Up to 400 lbs. | 250 lbs. plus rider |
| Transmission | 2-speed, with centrifugal clutch | 3-speed, with modern automatic wet multi-plate clutch |
| Engine | Flat head type | Modern overhead valve type |
| Brakes | Rear wheel only | Front and rear |
| Shock absorbers | Spring loaded front end suspension only | Hydraulically dampened both front and rear |
| Lighting equipment | From none to headlight only | Headlight, tail-light, turn indicators |



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